

#42

LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

All-American Princess
**Michelle
Moore**

Photo Feature
**Southern
Comfort
Conference**

**Drag
Trivia
Quiz**

Part 2

Plus...

**Brenda
Lawrence**

**Stephanie
Reiser**

**Roxanne
Van Ness**

\$US12 - \$Can18



**Part 2- The Fabulous Fls of
Le Carrousel**

Letter From The Editor

Two Sad Notes...

As we prepare to go to press, I'm sad to report the passing of one of the true pioneers of our community. Lee Brewster, the founder and owner of Lee's Mardi Gras Boutique, in NYC, passed on May 20, 2000. Her store was the first dedicated to girls like us and she was a drag mother to many over the years. Lee was 57 and died after a brief bout with cancer.

Another great lady of our community passed away just the day before. Lee Frances Heller was a retired minister who published the Christian crossdresser newsletters, *Grace & Lace* and *The Love Letter*. She had been in ill health for several years and was 82 years old. Two transgendered ladies named Lee who will both be missed.

Girls Just Wanna...

Hi everyone! Here we are with another thrill packed issue. Time flies when you're having fun and that's the topic of this issue's editorial, too. Fun. What can a girl with something extra do for fun? I've been serious and deep the last few editorials so maybe I need to lighten up. How to do that? Well girls, first of all I'm typing this in a red camisole and tap pants. Lingerie has a way of loosening up a crossdresser. But that's only step one. Where do we go from there?

Obviously, if you've been in the closet for years you have had all the closet fun you can have. First you thought about dressing up and just thinking about it was fun. Then you started dressing and that was a lot of fun. Then just dressing wasn't enough, so you got a camera and started to take pictures of yourself.

I fondly remember those long trips to a photo processing place on the other side of town, a place I never went with any of my regular photo work. Those were the days... of paranoia. During that phase of my CD life I accumulated photo albums full of pictures... all of me. Looking back, I now wonder why I never thought of trying a different pose, or maybe standing in a different part of the room. Ah, the folly of youth, it's left me with hundreds of photos with the same curtained background.

Some girls in their quest for crossdressing fun have sent their photos to magazines. Imagine, your photo out there somewhere, everywhere, for strangers to see and react to. Oh, wait, that's what *LadyLike* is all about. Keep sending those photos girls. That's real fun!

If you're a cybertrannie you've probably posted your photo files to the TG photo newsgroups on UseNet, perhaps exchanged a few files over the Web or even put up your own glamour website. Ah, the many satisfactions of the cyber CD. All of it a lot of fantasy fun and not as risky as getting all dolled up and heading out into the real world.

Many of you have done that, too. I know I got really bored with dressing up, taking pictures, blah, blah, blah. At one point, the urge to get out of the house was so bad that I finally spent several hours getting dressed, waited at the door for at least 20 minutes, listening to be sure there was no one in the immediate vicinity (like at least 4 square miles) and then dashed out to the

car to drive around for half an hour before hurrying home to hide. This was all at one AM. For some reason, when we put on a wig we lose all common sense. As if a woman alone anywhere at one AM had nothing to worry about.

When I figured out that there were other folks like me I went on a quest to find them. The group I came up with at the end of my quest was just what I needed at the time. It gave me a place to go every month where I could meet others who had the same needs and it offered me co-conspirators for more CD fun. Nothing is as motivating as peer pressure and with the pressure of my newly found crossdressing peers I went to a Pocono weekend event. This was way back in the 1980s before JoAnn started her. Oh, the fun I had.

I got up early every morning, shaved, made up and dressed. This meant I usually missed breakfast but, hey, I was watching my figure anyhow. Of course some of the girls actually left the resort to "go into town" (whatever that means when you're in the middle of nowhere). There wasn't enough peer pressure to get me to do that. Oh, how things change when you're having more and more crossdressing fun.

Within a few short years, I was going to New York City almost every weekend and having mucho fun in the club scene. I attended the Limelight, The Tunnel, and a few other places I can't recall. I danced the night away on many an occasion and got home around five AM more than once. Now that was some fun. In the course of all that I began to develop a comfort level with being out in drag. After awhile, it wasn't a big deal to be read by someone as a man in a dress. Oh sure, I don't enjoy it if I hear them mutter something derogatory about me, but it no longer has the impact it once did. Back then, I would hurry directly home and defrock myself post-haste. All the while swearing that I'd never do it again.

So what's the most fun a crossdresser can have? To dress when they want, where they want, and be free of the self-imposed worries over being recognized as a man in a dress. (Note that I didn't say recognized as in, "Hey, that's Bob!") Some people do have legitimate security concerns.) Take care to look as good as you can. Work on your deportment, your makeup, your outfit and your hair. Strive to look and be as naturally feminine seeming as you can, but don't let it bother you if someone reads you. All that means is that someone caught on, for some reason. And even that can be fun.

Once in a nightclub in New York I heard a startled female voice exclaim, "You mean that's a man?" Yes, when you get that reaction even a "read" can be big fun. So read on and, you know what I'm gonna say... have fun!



LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity



Cover photo courtesy of Sarah Thomas

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Michelle Moore

Name: Michelle Moore

Age: early 40's

Profession: Government Contracting
Specialist

Residence: Maple Shade, NJ

Height: 5' 8"

Weight: 170

Measurements: 38-33-38

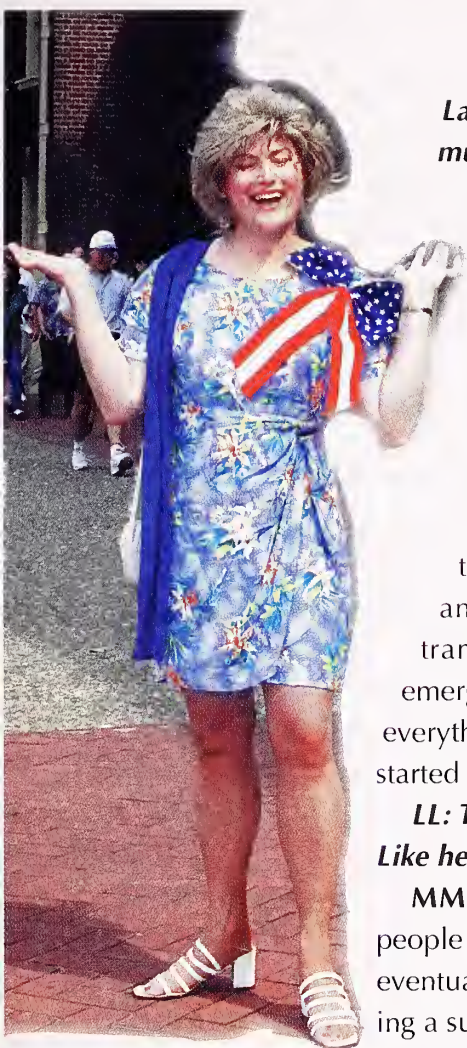
Shoe Size: 10

Favorite Clothes: well made suits,
stretchy pants, classic designs,
comfortable heels, jewel tone colors

Favorite Things: the company of
friends, traveling, arts & crafts,
gardening

Least Favorite Things: intolerance,
bigotry





LadyLike: Michelle, thank you so much for agreeing to be our Profile girl. Especially with all the things going on in your life right now.

Michelle Moore: It's really very flattering being asked to be featured in the magazine like this. Really, it's amazingly ironic at this particular time. You see, I am in the process of transitioning at work right now and my involvement with the transgendered community, my emergence as Michelle, just about everything in my life to date actually started with an issue of Ladylike.

LL: That's amazing. How did LadyLike help?

MM: Like many transgendered people I was once quite closeted but eventually I started thinking about joining a support group. I spotted a listing in LadyLike for Renaissance located in King of Prussia, Pa. Well, honestly, I was stunned to find a group so nearby, only about 20 miles from where I lived at the time. I had been hesitating all my life about coming out to others but here was a support group that was so close – how could I not try?

So, I marshaled my courage and went to a meeting, really liked the people I met there, joined up, and that decision has pretty much affected the course of my life in some way ever since. Finding a support group at the exact time when I was ready to start dealing with my gender issues really meant a lot to me. I have LadyLike to thank for that.

LL: You were one of the local Renaissance chapter leaders after you had been with the group for only a short time. How did you move into a leadership role?

MM: Having spent so many years closeted and alone with no friends or social life, I decided the best way to get involved and to meet people was to volunteer with Renaissance in some capacity. That led to my becoming the Meetings & Programs Coordinator for the Philadelphia Chapter. I was unanimously elected each time – one of the advantages of running unopposed, I guess.

LL: What did the Meetings & Programs person do?

MM: Anyone who has ever held the position can tell you what a labor-intensive job it can be. It starts well before the

doors open when you arrive to set the place up. Then you have to arrange for the food and beverages, set up the bookstore, the library, and any vendors who are attending. During the meeting itself there is greeting and collecting membership dues, setting up rap groups and newcomer orientations, making announcements, and, oh yes, cleaning up the place after everyone leaves.

LL: I'm almost sorry I asked. You were doing more work than a committee. Did you get to relax while the meeting was actually underway?

MM: While the meetings are going on you find yourself, like any good hostess, keeping one eye on the newcomers to make sure they are involved and everyone is having a good time and the other watching out for any crisis brewing. Since attendance could average anywhere from forty people to over one hundred, it was all quite a challenge. God, I'm getting tired just remembering it all! It wasn't at all unusual for me to start the day shortly after six o'clock and finally lock up the place close to one o'clock in the morning. Considering I did that for five years, I don't know whether to congratulate myself for retaining my sanity or question it for staying that long in the first place!

Actually, I probably tried to do too much myself, especially in the beginning. But I certainly didn't go it all alone and I'm so grateful to have had other board members during that time who just did an incredible job, as well as many volunteers who selflessly gave their time helping out however they could. My one soapbox message would be to ask anyone reading this who belongs to a support group, that you volunteer to help out any way you possibly can. Take it from someone who knows first hand, every contribution you can make, no matter how small it may seem to you, makes a tremendous difference.

*continued on
next page*





LL: What part of it did you find interesting, rewarding or both?

MM: Getting interesting speakers was a real challenge. Sometimes you'd get a person who had a vibrant interesting topic to share but they would be deadly dull as a public speaker. But, when it worked and you got a dynamic speaker who could reach the audience, involve them and touch them – that was beautiful to see. I'd have to say that contacting potential speakers really helped me because it allowed me to interact in the "real world" openly as Michelle. In fact, you could say that being the Meetings & Programs Coordinator was my first job ever as Michelle.

LL: How about lighter moments? Any examples?

MM: In the beginning I was just so inexperienced and naive about things. I remember at one of my first meetings asking if a transsexual friend was having eye trouble because I'd heard she'd been "dilating!" Later on, when I was doing the meetings myself, I would sometimes get in a rush and cut loose with some real silly malaprop. I remember once when I hurriedly announced to the confusion of all that the speaker was in the "mean mating room."

LL: I remember those. We used to say it happened because your wig was on too tight. You were apparently getting enough oxygen to help plan some of the group's most successful holiday parties, though.

MM: That was when they made me Chapter Leader. I was Chapter Leader for a year and helped to plan and organize a couple of Christmas parties, each of which drew about 120 people. The most maddening thing about planning parties is you were never sure until the last minute if you'd get enough people to attend. What we all too soon realized is that people invariably wait until the last possible minute to commit to these things, sometimes strictly on impulse. I can think of at least two instances when out of state people called me from hotel rooms where we were having functions less than an hour before dinner asking if there was still time for them to get a reservation (we got them in). Once someone even called me half way through

dinner asking if there was still time to get a seat (that one didn't quite make it).

LL: You were so busy with Renaissance, did you have time for other things?

MM: Renaissance hosted the IFGE Convention in 1993 in Philadelphia and I was one of the dozens of volunteers fortunate enough to be involved. Among other things we raised \$2500 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. You can't imagine how satisfying it was to have been a small part of that. Even today I still have people telling me that convention remains the best they have ever attended.

LL: Let's do a flashback to your childhood. How long were you aware that you felt different than others?

MM: A child really doesn't understand what's going on but I knew I was different at an early age.

LL: What's your first memory?

MM: One of my most distinctive memories comes from day care and kindergarten when I was exposed to so many kids my own age. We would be in the playground and they would be organizing us for recess. I always wanted to join the other girls but I knew I wasn't supposed to do that. So the boys and the girls would run off in different directions to play and I would just stand there in the middle of the playground, not knowing where to go or how to turn, all alone. And I pretty much stayed alone after that.

LL: That's so sad. Unfortunately it is so often true for transgendered kids. When we first met you were identifying as a crossdresser. When did you feel there was a deeper issue?

MM: You don't fully understand why you are transgendered at the very beginning and it often lends to spending your life denying it, trying to find some other explanation, something easier, something less complicated. I cross-dressed as early as nine, basically whenever I had access to clothes. In the beginning, I identified as being a crossdresser. I did so for some time until I gradually began noticing that I wasn't taking the clothes off. It wasn't enough just to dress up,



have fun with some friends, and go back to pretending to be male. I was gradually spending more and more and more of my life as Michelle. I felt more comfortable socially and personally as a woman, relating to other people as a woman does. You could probably see this change in my life just by studying my closet space over time – I started off with separate closets for each and gradually they melded together into one wardrobe.

LL: You come from a fairly rural background in Central Pennsylvania. What was it like being a TG there?

MM: Can you imagine growing up transgendered in a rural town of about 375 people on a good day? Rockhill Furnace is what's sometimes referred to as a bedroom community – just homes, with no businesses, and miles and miles from anywhere in particular. The nearest stores and movie theaters were an hour away. Socially and culturally, we were at least a decade behind the times – it was rural America at its best and worst. I didn't just think I was the only transgendered person in the world – for all intents and purposes, I **was** the only transgendered person in the world. It was only after I left, and went to Penn State that I even learned of others like me through books. Unfortunately, I remained closeted through college and the military.

LL: Did your family ever catch you crossdressing? Any close calls?

MM: There were no close calls because I simply suppressed everything. It was only shortly after I left the military that I started dressing as Michelle at home but even then I felt it would lead nowhere. I was completely alone. Those were very unhappy times. But that was the past and the past is something you can't change. I see my transitioning as only a means to an end, just one more step on my road to a more complete life. When you've literally been through hell and come back from it anything bad that happens after that certainly gets put into perspective fast. Life's little everyday frustrations – money, work, personal conflicts, whatever you

please – are still troubling of course but only to a point, then they invariably bottom out. "This is a problem? This is nothing! I've been through worse." Now, I just enjoy life and look at the future with a hope and optimism that I never thought I'd know and I literally thank God for each day.

LL: How does your family deal with your decision to be Michelle?

MM: It was hard coming out to my family. I first shared with my sister, the person I am closest to in the world. In the beginning I just told her that I was a crossdresser. I thought, foolishly, that she could deal with that easier than my being a transsexual. I realize now what a terrible disservice I did to her by not being honest with her from the start. My transitioning has been difficult for her as you can understand, with her having grown up relating to me as a brother. But she has been as supportive through this as anyone could possibly hope for. We share everything together now – all our experiences and feelings. She's been out socially numerous times with me since I've been Michelle, most recently helping me to shop for office clothes. I love her dearly.

LL: How about your parents?

MM: I was somewhat more forthcoming when I told my mom, at least trying to tell her I saw myself as her daughter. But, I more or less simply let her see me as a crossdresser as well, since it seemed she'd worry about me less that way, which of course was wrong. She and my sister were dead set against telling my dad; certain he wouldn't understand. I guess I'll never know, unfortunately; Mom and Dad both passed away before our relationship got any further along. It not only hurt to lose both my parents so suddenly, it also robbed me of the chance to fully share my life as Michelle with them. I've felt cheated by that and yet it also showed me how precious the time is that we have with others.

LL: What were you doing between Penn State and finding Renaissance?

MM: Like many transgendered women, I tried to make a go of it as a male. I enlisted in the Air Force and served as



continued on next page



an officer, even getting promoted. But you know the old saying about watching what you wish for because you might get it? Well, that was sure true here. The very reasons I joined the military – the regimentation and controlled lifestyle – were killing me. Here I was, finally in an environment perfect for suppressing my transsexuality, and I found out it wasn't what I really wanted after all.

So I got out of the military and into Civil Service. But, I also stagnated emotionally and socially for many years trying to deny my feelings before I finally found people who felt as I do and professionals who could help me along.

LL: What reactions have you gotten when you have told people about your transition?



MM: It was a shock to friends at first, particularly to the ones who didn't already know about Michelle. I can't say I blame them for the reaction. I've worked very hard all my life to portray a passable, socially acceptable male image, so really I can hardly blame them for being surprised.

LL: What happened after the surprise phase?

MM: Once they saw how important this was to me and what a positive experience this was for me, that's when their attitudes softened. Transsexuality is something that most people don't completely understand in the beginning and never fully, even afterwards. When people begin to realize that you are still essentially the person that they have always known, only you are becoming a happier, healthier, and a more whole person, that is something that they can understand and accept.

LL: I said before that I'm glad you could be our Profile since you are just making the first steps of your transition at work. Gender transition must be extremely difficult. I mean, any change in your life can be hard. Just moving to another home can leave you disoriented for a while. How are you dealing with this monumental change? (Ed. Note: In fact, just the day after we talked, Michelle and her counselor met with her bosses and the meeting went very well. She will have been full time for a few months by the time you read this.)

MM: The mechanics of transition are extremely time consuming! There are tons of details to see to: from the legal name change paper chase to the numerous doctor and counselor appointments, to building a suitable work wardrobe, to getting a lower maintenance hairstyle, all while trying to keep a job, and have a normal life. It certainly makes for some very busy times. It's like your whole world suddenly shifts into warp speed.

LL: How do you try to explain the whole concept of changing gender?

MM: You often hear transsexuals speaking of their lives as a journey. It's become something of a cliché, but it really is true. There is a beginning, a middle, and eventually an end. Your outlook is constantly changing the whole time as you go along and experience new things. You never stop growing and evolving. You can't. When you are born different and you know it, then you have to resolve how that fits into your life. I think it was Socrates who said that the unexamined life isn't worth living. Personally I think everybody, whether they are transgendered or not, can benefit from that.

LL: I think just reading about your "journey" will let

people know that a gender change isn't something to go into casually. You knew for years that you were transsexual and yet you had to fight through all the baggage you had accumulated about being a man. Then you had to do all the other necessary things like counseling, getting the medical end taken care of, and so on, it's like a full time job! Is there anything fun going on now?

MM: Yes! There's a real sense of positive energy and growth. I have a wonderful feeling of moving ahead with my life that I wouldn't miss for anything else in the world. Plus, as difficult as all this sounds (and it is), there are also lots of sources of amusement in transitioning... if you just allow yourself to appreciate them. Just listening to people who knew me as male ask questions like whether I've started menstruating yet, or if I was ever in the Girl Scouts (God, I wish!) is worth the price of admission alone.

LL: *Have you had any role models you looked up to?*

MM: As far as my role model, that would Christine Jorgensen, without question. It was reading her autobiography that made me realize that at least I wasn't alone out there. Also, she was the trailblazer who endured intense media pressure and a lifelong public scrutiny that the rest of us will never have to experience. Now, unless someone is transitioning in a highly visible public role, it's treated as a personal matter that rates nary a headline.

LL: *You've done some "cool" stuff during your journey. Please share some of the fun things from the past with our readers.*

MM: I've had my fifteen minutes of fame as a cover girl. I did this really neat cover shoot with Mariette Pathy Allen during the 1993 IFGE Convention. It paired an MtF (me) with an FtM, Taylor, and it was shot in front of the Liberty Bell. I also did a cover shoot for Transgender Community News, that time in front of Independence Hall. We did the shoot on Memorial Day but it was the cover of the July (1999) issue. You can't get more wholesome and All-American than that!

LL: *Even though you're as American as apple pie, I know that you're actually royalty.*

MM: Yes, I was named a Princess of the Poconos during a Paradise in the Poconos event. That was especially nice because you are chosen by the vote of the participants. I guess I was somewhat overcome by the moment. Jo Ann Roberts just loves to repeat the story of how while I was thanking everybody in the audience, I blurted out "I'll remember this for as long as I can."

LL: *I know our readers will remember this for as long as*



they can. Best of luck with your new life. You've dotted all the "i" and crossed the "t"s, we hope you reap all the rewards you deserve. Is there anything else you'd like to add that sums up?

MM: The key to everything, I think, is just keeping it all in perspective. If an unexamined life isn't worth living then an over examined life sure wouldn't be much fun either. There's a lot more to me than just my gender.

LL



CDtips *presents* Casino Night and Cabaret

Don't miss the premiere event of the season!

Lynda of CDtips invites you to attend this all day extravaganza and enjoy a night for the exclusive and the elegant that you will never forget!

Saturday, September 16th, Philadelphia, Pa.

- Day Event 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Cocktail Hour 5:00 – 6:00 PM
- Formal Dinner 6:00 – 8:00 PM
- Casino and Cabaret open at 8:15 PM

Come early so you don't miss the events of the day including demonstrations from two make-up artists and great lectures including: coping with real-life from Michele, a post-op transsexual; the virtual transgender community with JoAnn Roberts of TransGender Forum; and, of course, me, Lynda Krupa.

The evening's festivities begin at 5:00 PM with a cocktail hour featuring a caricaturist, a magician, photographers and more! Dress to impress for an elegant formal dinner. After dining, the casino* doors open and the stage lights go up! Try your hand at Lady Luck on games of chance where you can win prizes like a CDtips make over, wigs and TGForum goodies. In the cabaret the most stunning local TS performers will take you from goddess to beyond.

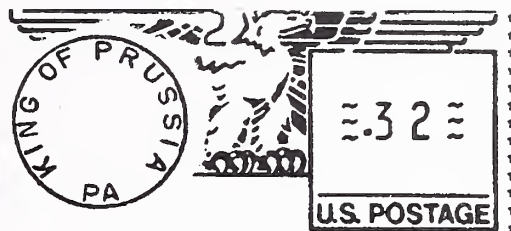
For details visit my website at www.CD-tips.com, send email to: CDtips@aol.com or call 215-878-3383.

*Games of chance are for entertainment purposes only.



Lynda of CDtips

Letters



Does It Every Chance She Gets

Just a little note to express how much I enjoy your magazine. I love your informative articles that help keep us girls updated on any new information or just plain girl talk. I especially love all of the great photos of the gorgeous, sexy ladies in each issue, and each Profile Girl always looks fab! Foxy Roxy was oh so sexy and would really love to see more of her.

My name is Sherri and I have been dressing for most of my life. (Started in mom's closet at an early age. I'm sure like a lot of girls.) I love to dress every possible chance that I get. I would like to visit a TV function and let Sherri be her femme self. Well I better close for now.

Thank you so much, Sherri
PO Box 12311, Augusta, GA 30914-2311



Sherri

Trying To Get Up The Nerve

I just got my newest copy of Ladylike (#40). I almost flipped out when I saw my pictures, I was so happy! I felt so liberated, like I was set free, like I was telling the world who I was, who I am! JoAnn you wouldn't believe the people I've met since you girls published my pictures. I've met seven sisters and two guys that liked me. One guy doesn't live but about thirty miles from me.

I haven't got the nerve up yet to go out. I mean I go out dressed but haven't got up the nerve to go into the clubs yet. I get there, pull into the parking lot and chicken out. But I'm working on it. I still wish I could find some shops that are TG tolerant in the Atlanta area, clothing, beauty shops, shoes, etc.

Keep it sweet, Regina

Angela says: You must be kidding girl. Atlanta is a hotbed of TG activity. Ever hear of a little old party called Southern Comfort? Take a look in our Resources section and get the address of Atlanta Gender Expression (AGE) and I'm sure they will be able to give you a list of stores that will welcome your cash. And maybe you'll meet some gal pals who want to go clubbing. It's hard to walk into a club alone, that's why girls always travel in packs.

Wants Videos

My life would not be complete without LadyLike. I love everything about the magazine and have

admired the beautiful ladies in your pages, especially Mirror-Mirror. Let me know if you are interested in marketing videos of your contributors. I think that your readers would very much like to share videos of themselves which are in good taste. I know that I would be interested if we could develop an additional revenue source for the magazine.

Love, Jennifer

Angela says: OK! Lights! Camera! Action! Nah. It sounds like a great idea but... Who's gonna put LadyLike together if JoAnn and I have to become movie directors? And do you know how much it costs to produce a moderately watchable video? (I admit, I'm a perfectionist.) No, if you girls want to swap home brew videos on your own go ahead. I recommend you get a digital camera and an iMac. Oh, and don't forget good lighting.

Not A "Boy" Anymore

And a big hello to all you girls out there! I am constantly amazed at how beautiful all my sisters have made themselves!

I have enjoyed dressing up and going out as much as possible for the last two years or so. The people you meet are an experience, which for the most part, is well rewarding. Not everyone reacts as you might expect, which I'm sure you know. Sometimes sales clerks address me as "ma'am" when I have no makeup on, other times you can be dressed to the nines and people figure you out!

One time in a store there was a little girl about 6 or 7 who asked me, "Are you a boy?" I laughed and



Helene

answered, "I'm not now, honey." But I'm finding more and more that by practice people don't even react one way or another.

So my advice to all you girls is to go out as much as possible and keep a positive attitude. Thanks JoAnn for a wonderful magazine. I can't praise it enough.

All my best, Helene Kay
Illinois FWD3681

Found Friends

In a world that was lonely all of my life, I now have LadyLike as a much needed friend. I now feel good about myself for the first time. I am excited to try to make myself look good. Even if my cat and camera are the only ones who see me now, I still have a sense of pride I never had prior. I have come a long way and have a long way to go. However, now I look forward to the journey.



I was truly turned off by the other publications I saw. They were vulgar and tasteless. I now wait impatiently for LadyLike. I've even called JoAnn twice to see what was going on. I'll read it twice plus, and more, the first day.

Paradise In The Poconos is still nine months away and I am excited. It will be my coming out party. I am nervous and thrilled all in one.

Thank you for caring about me and for giving me friends who understand.

Love, Candy
Virginia

Angela & JoAnn say: Every now and then we get a bit jaded about it all, but letters like your's help us to remember why we do it. Thanks for reading LadyLike!

Reads Us From Cover To Cover

I recently purchased my first issue of LadyLike. What a thrill. It's the first TV/CD publication I've read from cover to cover, ever! I believe it was #40. Your photo on page 17 was stunning! Microphone in hand, black mini dress and super legs!

I was so happy to see my pen pal Roxanne Van Ness featured in several parts of your publication. We have been corresponding for over a year now and I just love her!

The letter and article from Brenda Lawrence were fantastic. I've since contacted her we have exchanged several letters. What a super person! I know you'll want to keep her on as a guest writer.

continued on page 13

Pocono 2000

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Letters...



The only thing that I experienced a problem with was a non-response from at least 75% of your "mirror" ads. I wrote to over 15 and received only 3 responses. Girls, please have the courtesy to say "no" to us if you don't like our looks.

Here's my photo. Just lounging around. I love to hear from "passable" TV/CD's and women (RIGHT)! This is one of the best TV/CD publications I've read. Please keep them coming. Thanks again!

Janet L., PO Box 552, Lake Zurich IL 60047

JoAnn says: Janet, honey, I don't see why anyone would ignore a letter from you. You've got the looks and the legs, girl! And, don't worry, we're keeping both Roxanne and Brenda on tap.

One For All, And All For One

Happy new millennium ladies! It's been a while since I submitted some photos or dropped a line. I've been a busy girl. I spent six months back east last year seeing the family, exploring myself and different venues. It was fun.

Now I'm back in Hawaii doing all the things I love, especially dressing up and doing the town. I wanted to submit some new photos and let you know how much I love being a girl whenever I can.



I also want to thank you both for providing girls like us with a classy source to subscribe to. Your mag not only lets us be on display but enlightens and raises our awareness toward the transgender community. We are all one, we should all extend ourselves and love each other.

Thanks again girls. Stop by sometime.

Love and kisses, Breeze, Hawaii

An Admirer Speaks

In issue #39 your editorial addressed the topic of the increase in "Admirers." I think you got it wrong.

First, you lumped admirers into two main groups: "gay men who can't admit they're gay", and "closet crossdressers". You did allow for a third group, the "Wanna go out to my car?" type.

It seems as impossible for you to accept that there are straight "admirers" as it is for the general public to believe that there are straight crossdressers, or that bisexuals are really bisexuals and not all homosexuals who are lying to themselves. Granted, there are people who deceive themselves. That is simply no reason to assume that everyone, or that most, are deceiving themselves.

Occasionally there is a specialized video tape that is unusual and you may rent one because you are curious about what people see in it (e.g., the current release of adult videos with women who are very overweight, shaved, very hairy, foreign, over fifty, have super implants, etc). Sometimes you discover that the special subject is hot, and sometimes you shake your head and wonder why anyone made the video tape. I first rented a TV (she-male) video, along with two others with special themes, a couple years ago. A few months later I saw another TV video with Kelly Michaels on the cover and rented it. Kelly is hot. Then one with Karen Dior. Karen is hot. Then I picked up a magazine with Dior on the cover – and actually read it, too. Unusual, new, but interesting.

I wondered if I had some gay leanings but didn't know it and rented a gay video. Nothing. Negative reactions, that may or may not be cultural, but zero attraction. Neither could I imagine anyone else being attracted to a gay situation. Fine for them. Some people like liver with onions and some don't.

My fantasy date would be a week in Paris (where I lived for two years some time ago) with a 20 year old Kelly Michaels, Karen Dior or Monet Luv... or Cindy Crawford, Naomi Campbell, or Jennifer Love Hewitt. Sure, sex is very much on my mind but lighten up, I'm a man and that is just the way it is. Showing her the city is a part of it, too.

But just as some TGs have problems with friends, fellow office workers, and family, it is not realistic to judge an "admirer" by whether or not they will take a girl out in public. They may want to but be unable for the same reasons. That's why my fantasy date takes place in Paris.

Come to think of it, even the sex would be more of a problem than on a "regular" date, at least for straight "admirers" (and I think we are in the majority but I do not really know). We have to hope a TG date would wear a thong and keep her panties on.

I've rented quite a few TV (she-male) tapes in the last year, and bought quite a few magazines. I have also surfed the Internet and seen a lot of the TG home pages. I have a much better understanding of

the TG community now, and the different segments (TG, TV, Diva, she-male, etc.). They all seem to be very rapidly growing groups, and each segment seems to be understanding itself much better, and has some understanding of the other segments, but not always an understanding of the admirer.

You used phrases I have read before: T-Hawks – offensive phrase; Trannie-chasers – should be applied only to the "Wanna go to my car" type; Admirer – sounds sort of wimpy but at least it is polite.

You asked for "thoughts on the issue" and these are some of mine.

Sincerely, An... Admirer

P.S. Philly is not far from home. I may drop into the Poconos... and be "as nervous as a crossdresser attending her first support meeting" to paraphrase your editorial.

Angela says: Thanks for sharing your thoughts. I'll hold on to the plane tickets to Paris until you contact me. But seriously, I can see how straight men may find themselves attracted to TG girls. We actively learn as much as we can about making our selves look as much like attractive, sexy women as possible. The reaction from most straight men is not favorable since they get worried about being gay if the girl they are interested in happens to be male. You seem to be a much more accepting person, who can appreciate beauty and glamour no matter what the contents of the package may be. Unfortunately, you revert to typical masculine attitudes when you specify that your fantasy date has to be 20 years old. What's wrong with older, more experienced women? Maybe a more mature lady could show you a Paris that you're not familiar with.

If you want to go to the Poconos and mingle with the girls that's fine, but you can't just drop in. You've gotta make a reservation like everyone else.

Another Admirer Speaks Out

My name is Scottie and I'm an avid reader of your magazine. I think it's great. It has given me a greater insight on the transgender community and I have a respect that I once didn't have.

Being a straight black male who's married I have come to have a great admiration for the transgender community. It is difficult to keep this obsession away from my wife, however I do manage for now. I feel that one day I will have to cross that road and either tell her or save her the embarrassment and move on with my life with out telling her.

Please allow me to explain, I'm not a crossdresser and I'm not gay. I love women and every aspect of a woman. In a recent issue of LL an editorial was written describing two types of TV/TS chasers. I don't feel I fall in either category. I love the woman that I see in the person who is presenting herself. Over the years I've noticed that a lot of women (genetic) are caught up in competing in what they call a male dominated world. In doing so, they've lost their sensitivity, sexuality, eroticness and sex appeal. Some have turned the bedroom into a boardroom. Understand this isn't all women, just some of them.

I correspond with many different [transgender] women and I have found they are more women in

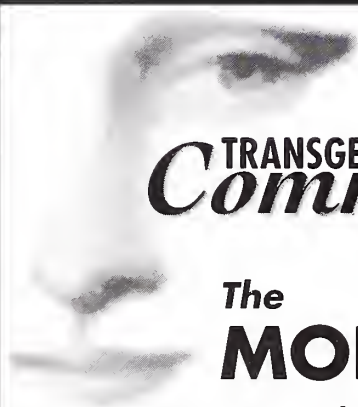
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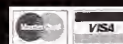
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Letters...

attitude and appearance than most real women. They possess a quality most men look for in a woman. The only thing is genetically they aren't females. I remind myself of something a young TG lady told me, "TV/TSs are women because they want to be. Genetic women are because they have to be."

If I had the honor, privilege, and pleasure of being with a beautiful TV/TS such as those appearing in your magazine, with or without the operation, I would stay with them. Because even though they would be beautiful on the outside, it's the substance of that entire person I would be in love with.

Yes I correspond with others and we share our fantasies with one another. But most of them are married with families of their own and I understand that when they write they are writing as the woman that they are and want to feel like.

Sincerely,
Scottie, Virginia

Angela replies: While we appreciate the attention I find it a bit scary that you are a married guy who likes (your "obsession" wasn't it?) guys who dress like girls and you're writing to married guys who dress like girls. If you don't tell your wife about this and she just happens to find out you'll have a lot more to worry about than her being embarrassed. Seriously, the ladies you write to are getting vicarious thrills being treated like a woman from reading your letters. You are turned on by how sexy and feminine they look. Would you still love "her" after you helped shave her back? There's a lot more that goes on in a real relationship than you can get in a few photos and some letters.

Then there's the bit about women "competing in a male dominated world." Wake up, it is a male dominated world. Women are paid less in the workplace, they end up doing all the work around the house and then they're expected to be exotic, sexy creatures on top of it all. Oh, and then they get to bear the children, too. I've been told birthing a child is a bit like passing a basketball.

Anyway, I digress. Let's hear from some of the TG ladies on their experiences with admirers.

Admirer Editorial Was Interesting

I've finally gotten around to writing you, I found the editorial, on TG "Admirers" quite interesting. It might explain a few things that I hadn't thought of, although I still can't quite understand why. It just seems to go against logic (says the confirmed married hetero CD'er who just loves to go out as a woman), that if a guy's gay, why does he want a man who is trying to look like a woman as much as he can, and if he's straight, why does he want a woman who he knows is a guy? My own experience is that I've gotten seven letters since some of my pics have been in LL, and I have to say that every one has been, more or less, a blatant gay come-on. This doesn't bother me especially, I'm secure enough in my own mind or whatever, but it is sort of disappointing.

Perhaps I was being naive. After all, I did send in pics of myself as a woman, but I thought if anyone did write it would be other crossdressers, not someone

Michelle



looking for sex or a relationship. And except for one, the notes were insulting as well, things that I don't think even a real woman would enjoy hearing, or would make her want to pursue things any farther. One even sent a picture, and on the back traced (I assume) the outline of his penis with the inscription "For Your Dining Pleasure." I mean really!

Others saw things that weren't there. One thought he could see the tops of my stockings, and wanted to know if they were thigh-highs or gartered (sorry, pantyhose). Another asked what style of panties I favored, and was I even wearing them in the pic. Talk about unclear on the concept — a crossdresser not wearing feminine undies?

I didn't even bother to reply to any of these, except one. His was the only letter I received that was even halfway decent. He wanted the same thing, but was very polite about it and, in fact, did say some complementary things. He had been in some kind of relationship with a transsexual but not anymore. I did write back saying basically thanks, but no thanks, you seem sincere and I appreciate the compliments on my pics but I wasn't interested in what you are.

I certainly don't condemn these guys, just their way of going about it. I wouldn't respond to that kind of thing even if I was that way.

Please don't take this as any possible criticism of you or LadyLike. You are doing a great thing with it and I enjoy it very much and will certainly continue to read it and send in pics. But, I don't think I'll include my address from now on, if for no other reason than I don't want to mislead anyone, even inadvertently
Hugs, Michelle, Calif.

More Porn From The Guys

My name is Jennifer Sheridan and I have been a subscriber of yours for a long time. I want to thank you both for producing the finest magazine in the world for us girls and also for putting my picture in Mirror-Mirror. I know that I am not as beautiful as some of the other girls, but I enjoy the opportunity to show off and to get my address in print. I still want my picture and address in print so I hope you never change that because I have received many lovely letters from sisters all over and have made many friends. I have also received many letters from males who have written to me, and that's why I'm writing.

In the last couple of issues Angela wrote about different males who are interested in us girls and the ideas some of them have. You also mentioned about

doing an article on how we feel about dating and how some of our relationships have gone.

Well, I received about 14 letters from different men, but I will only write back to about four of them because the other ten were nothing but porn.

Number one started off as what seemed to be a nice relationship. At first it was nice comments and an occasional gift. The letters became regular and we exchanged pictures and started to build what I thought to be a nice relationship. We talked about meeting somewhere between where he lived and where I live. We even talked about separate rooms in case things didn't go right, which I was in favor of for my protection. We talked about dinner, dancing, walking, shopping and touring. We got information on different places and finally agreed on a place and a weekend. We both seemed to know a lot about each other or so I thought.

About two weeks before we were going to meet he sent me a graphic letter with a picture of his male parts and full explanation of how he planned to use them to make me a complete (as he called it) woman. I had no warning of this in any other letters from him. That was the end of number one.

Number two started off seeming to be a very nice person. About the third letter he started to ask questions about my feelings as a woman when dressed and clothing sizes, including bra size, etc. I answered very vaguely and received a fourth letter in which he stated outright that he needed to know how to handle me as a woman, both emotionally and sexually. Well, the end of number two.

Letter number three was from a farmer looking for a wife but didn't tell me that until the sixth letter. He told me on his farm he had a couple of sheep that he kept just for one purpose and he was getting tired of them so he needed a good woman, as he put it, to keep him company. Isn't that the sickest stuff you ever heard of? He said he had lots of money and he would give me anything in the world I wanted. You guessed it, end of number three.

Now, on the brighter side, I am presently writing to what seems to be a gentleman 20 years my senior. So far in some months we have only had a fine relationship. Of course, we haven't met in person yet. He writes me poems, talks about nice long walks on sunset beaches and nice dinners together. He has recently mentioned meeting him at his summer home where I would have my own private room with bath. We have become close by mail and he has never said anything out of place. Who knows what's going to happen but I'm hoping for the best.

Good luck and love to both of you.
Jennifer (edited for space.)

Angela replies: I must point out that it might not be a good idea to go to a strange man's isolated summer home. It might be fine, but on the other hand, he might be an entirely different man if he takes the Viagra. How about starting with a dinner date at a nice TG friendly place?

The Last Word On Admirers?

Wow, another great issue in the mail! My subscription comes when I least expect it. The Profile on

continued on page 16

Letters...

Ellen McKinnon is so right on target. The information is in depth, the photographs are numerous, enough for us to get a complete (ok, near complete) view of this beautiful girl. I do like the longer Profiles and the in depth style of the last few issues. Thank you.

Love to you both and keep up the topics of dating, lots of correspondents talk a lot about sex or dating but Angela's editorial and Marsha Lakey's article really do frame the issues, men are exciting to be with, but men are... men.

Jo Ann Worth, PO Box 1776, Tempe, AZ 85280



Jo Ann

Lookin' For A Friend

I am sending my check for my subscription renewal with this letter. I just love LadyLike and can't wait to receive it each time and read it right away over and over again.

You all at LadyLike have one of the best publications dealing with transgenderism. You bring a sense of class to crossdressing. Anyway, my name is Amanda and I live in San Antonio and am a closest cross-dresser. I don't get out in public as my femme self. Partially this is due to not having any other t-girl-friends to get together with and talk.

If you know of anybody else that lives in the San Antonio/Austin, Texas area that I could write to or contact please let me know. I would love to be able to go out in public enfemme. Last September I did manage to get pictures taken of me all dressed up as the woman I have always wanted to be. I drove to Houston to this lady's house where she had all kinds of outfits to pick from. Before I knew it she transformed me into a beautiful woman. I just loved it. I will never forget that day. Maybe I will send some of the pictures to you so you could include them in LadyLike. Thanks for your wonderful magazine and keep up the good work.

Amanda, FWD3641

Angela says: Take a look in our Resources sec-

tion. There are several TG groups listed in your state. Contact them, even if they're not in your exact area, and maybe they can tell you of a local group we don't know about. Good luck and if anyone would like to write to Amanda, we'll forward the letter.

A Gender Bender

I am a closet CD who discovered his female-self at mid-life. I am still dealing with the guilt thing but seeing and reading about others in LL has been a great help. Please find enclosed a subscription renewal for another year.

I was in a hair cutterly the other day and noticed what I thought was a young man who turned out to be a young woman dressed like a man. She had very small breasts and wore men's slacks, polo shirt and heavy brown tie shoes. She was a GG but was also a CD expressing her maleness. Everyone noticed her as she met the hairstylist and explained the type of man's haircut she wanted. But then, everyone looked away and it was really no big deal. I could only wonder what the response would be if I came there as a MtF CD. I might even be arrested! (Does anyone know the law and crossdressing as it applies in the state of Maryland?)

I suppose we depend on men for physical strength and protection and consider CDs as weaklings and sissies. Women can express their maleness because they are not expected to provide strength and protection as long as there are 'real men' around. Women impersonating men is accepted in women's fashion just as we accept mini-skirts and purple hair.

But women can provide society with strength and protection. The film "Courage Under Fire" is a perfect example. Meg Ryan, the captain of a downed helicopter behind enemy lines, gives her life to save her crew, all males, who eventually experience mental breakdown and even suicide as they face the reality of her courage and their own fear and cowardice. I have never been in combat and I don't know if I could have such courage, but I do know I can offer society much compassion, love and tenderness even if it comes with lace and silk stockings.

Helen

Angela responds: I think you worry too much about breaking the law by dressing publicly. It's true that an obvious looking man dressed in feminine clothing will attract more attention than a woman who looks very butch, but as long as you don't act weird (a hairdresser told me about a cross-dressed client who started to masturbate under the cape while she was styling his wig. Now that can definitely get you arrested) or scary you

shouldn't have a problem. As far as we know, there are no state level laws against crossdressing. There may be local ordinances, but, like I always say, if you are really causing a stir they will use the old disturbing the peace or causing a public nuisance laws to pull you off the street. To paraphrase Shakespeare, Get thee to a support group meeting. That's the best place to come out of the closet and learn the ins and outs of where to be more public with your femme expression.

Big Fan Of Brenda Lawrence

My name is Alison. I don't know where to begin. I just got your magazine for the first time. The article by Brenda Lawrence, I love it, and also she is one hot and sexy lady. Second, I wrote her thinking I would get no response. Wrong! Not only did I get a letter back but she put me on cloud nine! What a great person. She wants to help me. I'm just coming out, only been dressing for a year. I'm not the best writer but I try to express my feelings. Anyway, Brenda just made me feel great about myself so if you're connected with people like this I want to be a part of this. Brenda is very talented.

I'm writing this from Sarasota, Florida but I was born in Philadelphia, Pa., so I have bad schooling but I got street smarts.

I'm sorry about my spelling and writing. I'm looking forward to your next issue and you can print my letter. I know you would want to doctor it up and I don't blame you. I just wanted to express my feelings. Brenda is queen! Well, just a street kid from Philly,

Alison Van Horn

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Southern Comfort Conference

Ten years and counting... by Stefanie Stevens Schumacher, SCC Committee 2000

The Southern Comfort Conference has become the premiere event in the transgender community. LadyLike invited the SCC Committee to share some information about this great event with our readers.

This year at Southern Comfort, we mark a milestone. It's our 10th Anniversary and we expect to shatter our attendance records. How did this all begin? Unfortunately, I cannot say, because this will only be my fifth conference. Even in that short time we have nearly doubled in size. Fortunately, I have the honor of being in the company of some of those who have been there right from the start.

Sabrina Marcus, a member of the board of directors from the beginning, gives this account of the humble beginnings of the largest transgendered conference in the world:

"I attended the Boston IFGE Coming Together convention in the spring of 1989 as the Florida Representative for the then-newly founded Congress of Representatives. This was my first convention and I was overwhelmed with a feeling of happiness and belonging. I was in the company of many of our community's leaders: Merrissa Sheryl Lynn, Yvonne Cook Riley, Dr. Sheila Kirk, JoAnn Roberts, and Linda Buten, just to name a few. While brainstorming ideas in one of the sessions I mentioned that it was very expensive to attend the conference. Between airfare, hotels, registration, etc., it had cost me over \$1500. Don't get me wrong, this was money well spent but I felt that the majority of the community could not afford [this amount]. I also felt that every transgendered person needed to feel the acceptance I felt during my first convention.

"I suggested that IFGE should

continued on page 19



Top – What would Southern Comfort be without its Southern Belles? (l. to r.) Dyana Lea, Cindy Lee, Jennifer & Melissa Rene.

Center – One thing that sets SCC apart from other events are the guys (FtMs) in attendance. Here, Marisa Richmond (center) basks in the company of (l. to r.) Cas Piotrowski, Marc Eden, and Maxwell Anderson.

Left – Stefanie Schumacher (l.) and Jennileigh Love (r.) present roses to Sabrina Marcus (center) SCC Chair for 1999.

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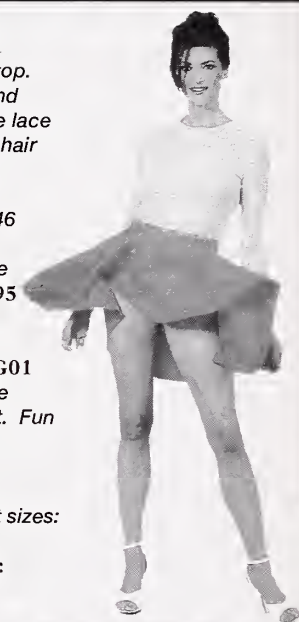


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Southern Comfort Conference

organize smaller “mini” conferences throughout the U.S. They could be two-day events sponsored by a support group in the area. People would be able to drive to the conference and share rooms to cut down on expenses. We would still provide high quality educational seminars and most of the meals would be included.

“A girl by the name of Catherine suggested we do the first conference in Atlanta. She volunteered to invite all the southeastern support groups to see if there was any interest.

“The planning meeting was held in a hotel near one of Catherine’s favorite Atlanta hangouts, Tri Ess Sigma Epsilon volunteered to host the first event. Linda Peacock (now Linda Kaye), Sig Ep’s president, and I were appointed co-chairs of the conference. Jerry Montgomery volunteered to head up the educational programming. We needed a name for the event and someone shouted out Southern Comfort. It just seemed to fit.

“These are the people that made the first Southern Comfort happen. The cost of the first SCC was \$175 which included all seminars and 5 Meals. The room rate at the hotel was \$49 and, because Atlanta is so central, it was an easy drive from many locations. Ten years later the price of the event is only \$50 more.

“I am very proud of what SCC has accomplished over the years. Even though we owe a lot to previous conferences, many things that are now standard at a gender conference were first conceived at SCC. Many of our community leaders got their start and have deep roots with SCC: Holly Boswell, Dallas Denny, Terry Murphy, Maxwell Anderson, and Tony Barretto-Neto, are a few that come to mind.

“But the thing I’ll treasure most about

putting on this event was the first time someone came up to me and said that Southern Comfort saved their life.”

Thanks, Sabrina. Now, it’s something to have a conference, but what makes SCC so special? We have always prided ourselves on being inclusive. No matter what one’s issue with gender, there’s a place for that person at SCC. We have worked hard to get the transmen [FtMs] more involved, and this year, the conference is co-chaired by Max Anderson and “Cas” Piotrowski. Also, Sam Allen is the program director.

Ah... the programming, we’ve always felt that, while having fun and socializing with friends is great, the support and education in the SCC programming is the most important aspect of the conference. One person who has had as much impact as anyone on SCC’s programming is Holly Boswell (another SCC board member). Here are her thoughts on the subject:

“In the beginning (of gender conventions), there were only CDs and TSs. I suspected there were a lot of others who, like me, didn’t really fit into either of these designations. So, I developed programs at SCC that addressed issues beyond the standard offerings circa 1990. In fact, the word ‘transgender’ was adopted soon after the emergence of this new movement within our community.

“Most people define transgender, or TG, as living full-time without SRS; hence more than dressing up, but less than fully congruent. TG is about expressing more than the two genders we are taught. When you consider that SRS (and HRT) have been available less than fifty years, most full-time gender-variant people in human history prior to the 1950’s were TG.

“This is why one of the first topics we addressed in the TG track was

Anthropology and History. From that perspective, we addressed Spirituality. Then we went into Socio-political, and Community-building. Beyond issues of “passing and assimilation,” we delved more deeply into Psychology, addressing self-esteem and family dynamics. To underpin all this, we’ve continued to offer the latest in Gender Theory, as well as practical information on non-op and alternative lifestyle options.

“Other conventions started emulating what we began at SCC, and our broad program topics became adopted and absorbed into what is called “the ALL track,” i.e., programs that speak to everyone. This achievement helps explain why Transgender is at the center of our community and our movement. We address the whole person in an historical, global, context, and this is why the TG track is important content for everyone at SCC and beyond.”

Thank you, Holly. It’s really the people who work all year that makes SCC what it has become. We have almost forty people involved in all aspects of the conference. Without their commitment and love for SCC, we certainly wouldn’t have grown into the “life-changing” event that we are.

From all of us in the SCC family, we thank you for all the support, compliments, and criticisms that you give us. It all goes to make SCC better and better. Don’t forget, the conference is September 26th through October 1st this year. You can get ALL the information you need at our website: www.sccatl.org. Hopefully, we’ll see you in Atlanta this September for the biggest and best Southern Comfort ever!

My special thanks to Sabrina Marcus and Holly Boswell for their contributions to this article.



Southern Comfort Conference

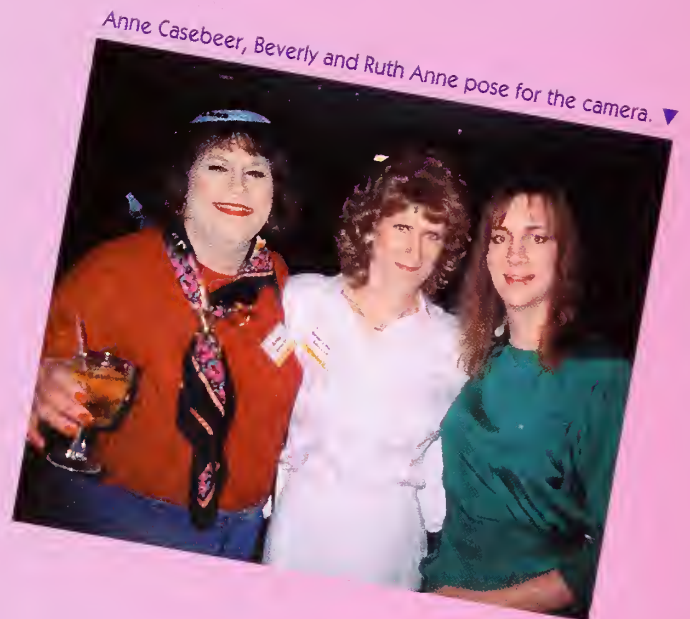


▲ The Tennessee Vals make the SCC pilgrimage every year.

▼ These 199 SCC gals are enjoying a great dinner at Planet Hollywood in Atlanta



▲ In 1998 the hot spot was the Hard Rock Cafe downtown. They love us.



Anne Casebeer, Beverly and Ruth Anne pose for the camera. ▼

Bet you never thought you'd see these two together.
Dawn Wilson (l.) and Christine Hochberg(r.) ▼



Thanks to Dyana Lea, Sherri Parker & Tammy Ward for the SCC photos.

▼ More Hard Rock'in – (l. to r.) Dyana Lea, Sherri Lynn, Drew Landis, Jennifer.



Southern Comfort Conference



▲ The Y2K SCC Committee (clockwise from lower left): Carl, Ms Owens, Julian, Dyana, Cindy & Marc. That's Holly Boswell behind Julian.

Can you say PARTY! These three can.
(l. to r.) Lisa, Dyana, & Heather ▼



▲ SCC 1999 chair,
Sabrina Marcus



▲ SCC's "Audio Babe," Tammy Ward

**Visit the Southern
Comfort Conference
website for complete
details on this year's
event.**

www.sccatl.org

We'll be there. Will you?

Linda Lewis
a former LL cover girl ▼



▼ You never know who you'll meet waiting for the elevators. They do get crowded!



▲ Lola Cola, oh yeah!

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From Woman Within To Woman Without

Adventures with Roxanne Van Ness

Insofar as balcony appearances go, I continue to snap my photos when nobody else was around, i.e., in the wee hours (between midnight and 6 am). Sound thinking.

Yet - Aha.- I was becoming somewhat more daring of late. I crept downstairs - en femme - to fetch mail on numerous occasions. I did considerable reading (Victoria's Secret catalogue, Tyra Banks's beauty book, pen-pal letters) in the lobby three times - staying 75, 80, and 95 minutes, respectively. And - surprise, surprise - I actually prettied myself up for a 7 1/2 mile walk. Yes!!! (That milestone took place on March 10, 1999.) A second trip - on March 29th - covered a more modest 2+ miles. A third outing in April saw me travel 5 miles, and a fourth (April 7th) 4 more. Hey, when Rox makes up her mind, she doesn't fool around. And would you believe that - in each instance - I wasn't particularly nervous before, during, or after the fact? Heck, I'm either very brave or downright crazy. (Check one.)

Apparently, the mail pick-ups and lobby reading sessions proved a resounding success. In the case of the former, no one spotted me. As for the latter, those who did notice me (from 30 to 40 feet away) never gave it a second thought. Like, Yay! 1999 had gotten off to a super start...

Alas, my initial stroll through T.M.R. wasn't without its pitfalls. (Since she seemed to be on a roll, I'd given the nod to my "Monique" alter ego.) A minimum of four individuals - including a fellow tenant and a public-security officer - did double-takes. Worse, a passenger in a moving car commented to his driver, "Is that a guy?" Horrors! I suspected it was my unfeminine profile that had given me away, since all else, make-up, wardrobe, gait (presumably), etc., was impeccable. Well, so much for the "passing" myth. Needless to say, you could have coloured me tres demoralized.

The encore jaunt met with nary an incident. (This time the baton, so to speak, had been handed to my "Brigitte" persona.) That figured, since I encountered nary a pedestrian and only a couple of vehicles. All right!. Voyage number three turned out to be relatively uneventful as well, notwithstanding a pair of "cowboys" in a van who made a squealing U-turn (uh-oh) to get another look. And trip number four - negotiated between bouts of drizzle - wound up the most exhilarating adventure of the lot. (Would I lie?)

(Eep!) In the ensuing weeks I received a bit of a start even though I managed to remain surprisingly composed. There I sat at home, "dressed to the nines," when who should come a-knocking but the police. Frankly, I was prepared to open up (figuring there was little choice); but, luckily, the

constables were searching for the super, so I directed them to the apartment next door. (Like, whew!)

Typically undeterred, I soon went for two additional strolls - of approximately 7 1/2 miles on April 26th and 8 on April 22nd. The former netted me one lone encounter - a vehicle that passed just as I'd arrived at the post office - allowing me to use mailing letters as an excuse to turn my back. The latter, however, proved to be a totally different ball of wax (as opposed to bikini-wax). It was newspaper delivery hour (3 to 5 am), and - no matter which route I chose - up popped the annoying car, turning into and out of driveways ad nauseam. (Barf-o-rama) I also met a public security vehicle, but the officer seemed more intent on checking out private properties and lanes than dealing with me. Nevertheless, my one truly tense moment came when, halfway across a pedestrian overpass - a mere 280 yards from home base - I found myself approached by a cyclist. (I nearly froze in my tracks, yet maintained a casual pace somehow.) I can't say whether the guy perceived my underlying gender or not. All I know is that nary a word was exchanged and he made a point of not looking me in the eye. (I presume he enjoyed the scent of my "Night Magic" perfume.) In any case, suspicious or not, he remained the perfect gentleman as we squeezed past each other. Gosh, what a gnarly birthday present

Methinks I'd best lie low for a while (despite an ever present itch to wander) lest neighbours discover the shocking connection between that mysterious redhead frequenting said lobby, an unidentified brunette seen emerging from the building, and the strange fellow inhabiting a third-floor apartment. As it is, I'm already in a precarious location - sandwiched between the Janitor and a decidedly antiso-cial couple.

Trust me, I'll be content to play the traditional housewife for a change - clad in nightie, slippers, and all. The flat needs considerable reorganization and tidying up. So why not let an expert - a woman - handle the task?

Hugs from Canada,
Roxanne



Roxanne in her
"Brigitte" persona.
See more of her on
the next page.



Mirror Mirror



▲ Roxanne Van Ness. Above (in green) as "Carolette" and at left (in polka dots) as "Marigold."
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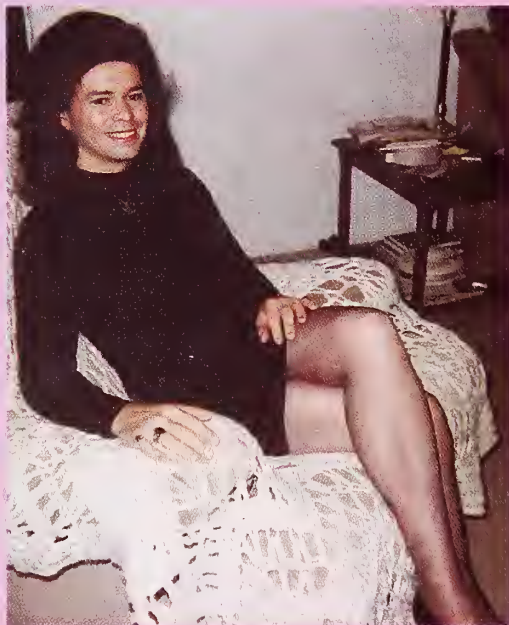
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▲ Stephanie McCall, 1785B Willow Woods Dr,
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Monique Elliott, PO Box 4345,
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◀ Donna June, NY
djunelady@webtv.net

Perfecting Your Feminine Image

Part 1

For a lot of us, maybe even all of us, looking like a passable woman follows right on the heels (bad pun) of wearing feminine clothing. I'm sure by our late teens or early twenties, most of us tried makeup and wigs to see if we could look even more feminine than just trying on the clothing. Possibly you even experimented in your early teens using Mom's makeup and a towel or scarf on your head to see if you could look like a girl.

I tried things like that but I really didn't work at it very hard until my late twenties. I just wasn't very good at it and didn't know what I was doing.

Once my wife discovered my secret, she helped me get my act together. For the most part I was content to wear an article or two of feminine clothing (usually a bra and girdle), with an occasional attempt at dressing completely when I had the house to myself for the day.

Frankly, a lot of us never will achieve the feminine look we so desperately desire due to our masculine facial features and body shape. While women have the general shape of a pear, we guys are shaped like a "V" or is it a "U"? I suppose there's a few "O"s out there as well.

I used to think a stick of dynamite wouldn't help me, but I became very determined to give it my best shot about four years ago. I'll tell you how I did it. You've got to want it very badly, and I did, so I let my stubborn German ancestry take charge.

Probably the biggest change I made was losing weight - a total of 55 pounds. I was way overweight for a 5'9" frame at 225 pounds. I first cut out all the fast food I was stuffing in my face three times a day. I started eating turkey sandwiches and apples instead of greasy hamburgers and candy bars — not easy when you're a chocaholic like I am.

The weight began dropping and I helped it along by taking long (3-5 miles) walks several evenings a week. I even crossdressed on these late night walks as an incentive. That even built up my courage to be outside enfemme, and helped to conquer my fears of going out in public later on. The last fifteen pounds were the hardest, but well worth the effort of cutting back on the food consumed each meal.

My next biggest step was perfecting a decent set of hip pads to widen my typically male slender hips so they would be nearly as wide as my shoulders — just like a woman's. Certainly you've noticed you can wear a skirt three sizes smaller than your blouse size and you look just like a guy in a skirt, too. You've simply got to get your butt and hips bigger to look right. I tried a number of padded girdles but they never looked very good — more like I had a pair of hickey's on my hips! Finally, I made my own in a larger tear-drop shape from foam I bought at a fabric store. By snipping and trimming and gluing a smaller piece on top of a larger piece, I made foam hips that look very realistic when worn under pantyhose or girdle.

While all this was going on, I worked with various types and shades of makeup. My wife's own helpful advice: "You look like Bozo the Clown! Don't use so much [makeup]"



and JoAnn's [our publisher] wonderful tip about using orange-red lipstick as beard cover really did the trick for me. I can go almost 24 hours before the "ol' blue shadow" starts to show again. You've got to try that lipstick trick, girls.

I'll bet over the years I've read about 10,000 ways of making up your face and probably tried half that many that ended up in failure. One day we got a free sample in the mail promoting Max Factor's "Lasting Performance" stay-put makeup. I tried the sample and it did stay put!

While searching for more and in different shades at the local Walgreen's, I spotted Revlon "Colorstay Makeup" and bought some of that as well. I know good makeup isn't cheap and I didn't hit the right shades at first, either, but you've got to be willing to spend some money to find solutions to your problems. Both brands offered a powder to set the makeup, so that came home with me as well. Lots of experimenting and color swapping finally produced the results I wanted.

The following is what I use, but keep in mind they may not work correctly for you since we all have different skin tones and textures. Plus, I have a light beard and virtually no eyebrows (yeah, I know some of us have more hair over our eyes than on our noggin). I may even do a lot of things backwards according to the pros, but it works for me!

I start out with the usual close shave — I use a Norelco Triple-Head shaver as I'd cut myself to death with a blade — and then apply a good skin lotion on my face and neck and let it soak in a few minutes. I rub the orange-red lipstick over the beard area and smooth it so it covers evenly and looks like you've got a bad sunburn. I pat on (NB: - patting - not wiping) the Revlon Colorstay in "Toast" with a good makeup sponge till it covers everything evenly. Then I set that with Max Factor #305 True Beige pressed powder by dusting it over my face with a soft brush.

Next, I draw a small shape of an eyebrow in black-brown pencil and shape them with the pointed sponge tip on the other end of the pencil. This lightens the pencil marks and looks more natural. Using the same pencil, I draw a thin line under my lower lash and smooth with the sponge tip widening the coverage at the outer edge of the lash. Using liquid eyeliner and a tiny brush, I draw a very thin line over the upper lash and extend it out past the outer edge of the lash and angle it up a bit to a point. No blinking till it dries!

Then, I apply several layers of mascara (in black as a blonde or brown as a brunette) on the lashes till they're nice and thick, apply my choice of eyeshadow and blend up to

the eyebrows with the darkest area close to the eyes and lighter farther away. A dash or three of Covergirl "Refined Rose" on each cheek, and that day's choice of lipstick (I use a pointed sponge tip on an old eyebrow pencil rather than a lipstick pencil to outline my lips - don't know why) and I'm ready to set the world on fire... or finish the rest of my dressing!

That Revlon really does stay on and you nearly need blasting powder to get it off, but it's nice not to see it come off on everything that touches your face. I use those makeup remover pads and good old soap and water to get it off later.

The above makeup combo covers well for me and lasts all day with an occasional touchup of powder and lipstick. These shades I've mentioned are for when I'm a blonde; I go to a lighter shade of makeup when I'm a brunette. I'm very proud of my success with my face, but can remember as a kid that I had trouble staying in the lines with my crayons at school. Maybe I should have used mom's makeup brushes back then? NOT!

Don't forget to smile pretty for the camera!

(You can write directly to Brenda Lawrence
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Telzey Adams, PO Box 195,
Berkeley CA 94701 ▼



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Port Salerno Fla 34992 ▼



North American Support Groups

National US Membership Organizations

International Foundation for Gender Education, PO Box 540229, Waltham, MA 02454. Publishes Transgender Tapestry (\$40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. <ifge@ifge.org><www.ifge.org>

Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$40 includes the monthly publication *Transgender Community News*. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(!)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. <angela@ren.org> <www.ren.org>

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the *Femme Mirror* quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. <jeftris@aol.com>

Alaska
Alaska T People, c/o Bobbie Wendy Tucey, PO Box 670349, Chugiak, AK 99567

Alabama
Madison County Gender Center, c/o MCC 3015 Sparkman Dr NW, Huntsville, AL 35810

Arizona
Alpha-Zeta (#), Box 28363, Tempe, AZ 85285-8363, Aquahills@aol.com

A Rose, PO Box 8108, Glendale, AZ 85280-8108

Tau Upsilon(#), 8802 E Broadway Blvd.#145 Tucson, AZ 85710, TauUpsilon@aol.com

Rho Eta Chi(#), 84033, Phoenix, AZ 85071-0959, kyle@goodnet.com

California
Alpha(#), PO Box 411352, Los Angeles, CA 90041, l_wade@earthlink.net
Androgyny, PO Box 480740, Los Angeles, CA 90048

Born Free, PO Box 52829, Riverside, CA 92517

CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, CA 90808

Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885

Gender Expressions, PO Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714-0816

Ladies Knight Out, PO Box 19608-179, Irvine, CA 92713

Neutral Corner, PO Box 19008, San Diego, CA 92159

Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170-0730

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456

Sigma Sigma Beta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96151

TGSF, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142

Thursday Irregulars, c/o Joan Sheldon, PO Box 6541, San Jose, CA 95150-6541

Tri Chi (#), P.O. Box 26593, Fresno, CA 93729-6593, trichi@eudoramail.com

Colorado
Delta (#) PO Box 16208, Denver, CO 80216-6208

Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc., 1455 Ammons St., Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80215-4993

Pueblo TV/TS Support Group, 1144 Claremont, Pueblo, CO 81004-2808

Connecticut
Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, CT 06034

connecticutView, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460

Twenty (XX) Club Inc., PO Box 387, Hartford, CT 06141-0387

District of Columbia
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Delaware
Renaissance (!), Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington DE 19808

Florida
Animas, PO Box 420309, Miami FL 33242
Gamma Chi Beta (#), 8660 College Pkwy, Ste.230, Ft. Myers FL 33919, mindbody@peganet.com

Mu Beta Gamma (#), PO Box 4126, Hialeah, FL 33014, barbaraann1@juno.com

North Florida Sisters (NFS), PO Box 5765, Jacksonville, FL 32247

Phi Epsilon Mu (#), PO Box 3261, Winter Park FL 32790-3261, KellyFL@aol.com

Tau Lambda (#), PO Box 3426, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3426

The Ladies Club of Florida (TLC), P.O. Box 372711, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Trans Alliance of Gainesville, PO Box 143102, Gainesville, FL 32614-3102

Georgia
Sigma Epsilon (#), PO Box 272, Roswell, GA 30077-0272, kerricd@mindspring.com

AGE(!), PO Box 267, Powder Springs, GA 30127

Hawaii
Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, HI 96812

Iowa
Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 1925, Clinton, IA 52733-1925
Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 680, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0680

Idaho
Idaho Transgender Society, PO Box 7353, Boise, ID 83707-1353

Illinois
Chi (#), PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191, Chitriess@aol.com

Chicago Gender Society (!), PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657

Indiana
IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianapolis IN 46250
Transgender Outreach of N. Indiana, Ltd., PO Box 2372, Portage, IN 46368

Kansas
KCCAF (Kansas City Crossdressers & Friends), PO Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204

Wichita Transgender Alliance, PO Box 3002, Wichita, KS 67201-3002

Kentucky
BlueGrass Belles, PO Box 20173, Louisville, KY 40250

Louisiana
Gulf Gender Alliance (!), (a Renaissance Chapter) PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836

Massachusetts
Sunshine Club, PO Box 564, Hadley, MA 01035

TG Support, 36 Alpine Rd, Wayland, MA 01778

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 71, Waltham MA 02454-0071

Maryland
Chi Epsilon Sigma, P.O. Box 505, Brooklandville MD 21022
yvonne@netrax.net

The Bridge Club, c/o Michelle Gerald, PO Box 11737, Baltimore, MD 21206-0337

Tri-State Transgendered Club, c/o Diane Terrant, PO Box 1994, Silver Spring, MD 21550-1002

Maine
Maine Gender Resource & Support, c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894

Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101

Michigan
Crossroads, PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068

Friends North, Inc., PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Lambda Mu(#), P.O. Box 246, Moline, MI 49335-0246, lambdamu@geocities.com

Minnesota
Beta Gamma (#), P.O. Box 32014, Fridley, MN 55432, join@tri-ess.com

City of Lakes Crossgender Community, PO Box 16265, Minneapolis MN 55416

Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression, PO Box 17945, St. Paul, MN 55117

Missouri
Sigma Mu (#), P.O. Box 6187, Springfield MO 65801-6187, sigma_mu@usa.net
St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117

Mississippi
Beta Chi (#), PO Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39286

North Carolina
Carolina Transensual Alliance (CTA), 112 Edwardia, Greensboro, NC 27409
Kappa Beta(#), PO Box 12101, Charlotte, NC 28220-2101, infolady@kappabeta.org

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, NC 28814

Sigma Rho Delta (#), PO Box 61406, Raleigh, NC 27661, sigmarhodelta@yahoo.com

Triad Gender Association, PO Box 2264, Jamestown, NC 27282-2264

Nebraska
River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 8076, Omaha, NE 68108-0076

Nevada
Equinox, 8175 S Virginia, Suite 850-256, Reno, NV 89511-8981

Theta Upsilon Gamma(#), P.O. Box 42401, Las Vegas, NV 89116, lasvegastug@yahoo.com

Transgender Support Las Vegas, Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas, NV

New Hampshire
Tau Sigma Epsilon (#), P.O. Box 7681, Nashua, NH 03060 gerri_buchanan@yahoo.com

New Jersey
Chi Delta Mu (#), PO Box 1, River Edge, NJ 07661-0001, cdm81@hotmail.com

Monmouth Ocean Transgender (!), (a Renaissance Chapter), PO Box 2972, Princeton, NJ 08543-2972

NJ Support, PO Box 0034, Montville, NJ 07045

Sigma Nu Rho (#), PO Box 9255, Trenton NJ 08650, SNRTRIS@hotmail.com

New Mexico

Fiestal(#), 8200 Montgomery NE, #241, Albuquerque, NM 87109, VickyAnne@yahoo.com

New York

Buffalo Belles, PO Box 1701, Amherst, NY 14296

CD•Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692

Lambda Chi Lambda (#), PO Box 1010, Cooperstown, NY 13326

Metropolitan Gender Network, 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY 10014

TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604

Transgender Network, PO Box 1611 South Road Annex, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-0611

Ohio

Alpha Omega (#), PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054, info@triess-alphaomega.org

Crossport, PO Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH 45204

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Cleveland, OH 44129

Oregon

Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524 Monroe Ave., La Grande, OR 97850

North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208

Rho Gamma (#), PO Box 5551, Grants Pass, OR 97527, loritris@terragon.com

Trans-Port, P.O. Box 66913, Portland, OR 97290

Pennsylvania

Epsilon Mu Gamma (#), P.O. Box 4, Three Bridges NJ 08887, emgtris@hotmail.com

Erie Sisters, 1903 West 8th St #261, Erie, PA 16505

Renaissance(!), Philadelphia, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087

Renaissance(!), Lower Susquehanna Valley, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122

Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Tennessee

Memphis TransGender Alliance, PO Box 11232, Memphis, TN 38111-0232

Tennessee Vals, PO Box 92335, Nashville, TN 37209

Texas

Alpha Tau (#), PO Box 1398, Georgetown, TX 78627, Mousehurd@aol.com

Central Texas Transgender Society, PO Box 195, Spicewood, TX 78669

Epsilon Tau (#), PO Box 945, New Waverly, TX 77358

Gulf Coast Transgender Community, PO Box 90335, Houston, TX 77090

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous, 6804 E Hiway 6 S #334, Houston, TX 77083

Metroplex CD Club, PO Box 141924, Irving, TX 75014-1924

Nu Epsilon Tau (#), PO Box 14096, Pantego, TX 76094

Pi Beta Gamma (#), PO Box 673, Venus, TX 76084, milomae@fastlane.net

Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE), Peggy Rudd, c/o 8880 Bellaire B2 #104, Houston, TX 77036

Tau Chi(#), 8880 Bellaire B2 PMB104, Houston TX 77036, JEFTRIS@aol.com

West Texas Gender Alliance, c/o Tami Maloney, 5350 Llano St., Abilene, TX 79605

Utah

An Engendered Species, PO box 11897, Salt Lake City, UT 84147

Western Transsexuals Support Network, 4667 Holladay Blvd, #2, Salt Lake City, UT 84117

Virginia

Rho Tau(#), PO Box 13244, Chesapeake, VA 23325-0244, rhotau@yahoo.com

Ladies First, 7138 Little River Turnpike, Ste 1820, Annandale, VA 22003

Trans-Gender Education Association, PO Box 16036, Arlington, VA 22215

Washington

Bellingham Gender Group, 304 W. Champion, Bellingham, WA 98225

Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, WA 98122-2843

Wisconsin

Gemini Gender Group, P.O.Box 44211, Milwaukee WI 53214

West Virginia

Trans-West Virginia, PO Box 23292, Huntington, WV 25724

Community Calendar

August 2000

17 - 21, 8th Annual Kindred Spirits

Circle: Celebrating the growing traditions and visions of Kindred Spirits.

Newcomers and veterans alike are invited to share in a rich, life-altering experience at the historic Sunnybank Inn, hiking Max Patch Bald, dipping in mountain streams, hot tubs, and fine dining. Contact: Kindred Spirits, 395 Lakey Gap Acres, Black Mountain, NC 28711, (828)669-3889.

September 2000

16, Special TG Event, in Philadelphia, Pa. sponsored by CDtips. Daytime seminars. Casino/Cabaret Nite. For more info call CDtips at 215-878-3383 or email to cdtips@aol.com

26 - 10/1, Southern Comfort Conference 2000, at the Sheraton Buckhead

Hotel, Atlanta and Sheraton Four Points Buckhead. Write: SCC, P.O. Box 77591,

Atlanta, GA 30357-1591 Call: (404) 633-6470 or E-mail info@sccatl.org.

October 2000

5 - 8, Fourth International Congress on

Sex & Gender in Philadelphia, Pa., at the Warwick Hotel, sponsored by the

Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Inc. Call Renaissance at 610-975-9119 for registration details. Call the Warwick at

800-523-4210, 215-735-6000 or fax to 215-790-7766 for reservations.

12 - 15, Fall Harvest 2000, St. Louis, Mo, at the Henry VIII Hotel and Conference Center. For more info write: Fall Harvest 2000, P.O. Box 9424, St. Louis

MO 63117, or via e-mail: FH2000@juno.com.

TBA, Lavender Law Conference 2000.

November 2000

2 - 5, Paradise In The Poconos 2000,

an extended weekend for CDs in the Pennsylvania Pocono mountains with parties, programs and lots of fun. Contact CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, or call 610-640-9449, or email to: poco@cdspub.com.

9 - 12, Western Belles Roundup 2000

in the Poconos at a Dude Ranch. For info contact Bobbi Swan, P.O. Box 380106, Clinton TWP, MI 48048 or phone: (810) 286-6214

TBA, 13th Annual NGLTF Creating Change Conference.

January 2001

TBA, First Event by Tiffany Club of New England., Inc.

February 2001

25 - 28, Colorado Gold Rush, Denver, Colorado, sponsored by the Gender Identity Center, Inc. Contact info TBA.

TBA, Fifth International Congress on Sex & Gender in Australia or New Zealand. More details to come.

Le Carrousel – Part 2

We closed last issue with this note from a Parisian newspaper revue of the Club Carrousel:

...However naughty, the revue has achieved complete acceptance, as our guest book demonstrates. Our guest book is probably the most sensational document of the current era in Paris.

Though they must be bragging a bit, the guest book of the club would be a priceless artifact. In the few years that April Ashley worked there she met Ginger Rogers, Claudette Colbert, Rex Harrison, Kay Kendall, Schiaparelli, Bob Hope, Margaret Lockwood, Josephine Baker, Salvador Dali, Shirley Bassey, and a woman named Ariane, who claimed to be Goebbel's sister-in-law. Marlene Dietrich saw the show and "thought there should be a 'lesbian cabaret' club too." Elvis was sighted at Le Carrousel more than once. When "The King" was stationed in Germany, he often "flew to Paris with an entourage for dirty weekends."

Le Carrousel was best known for glamour. The entire show seemed to be based on the old cry; "You won't believe your eyes." Le Carrousel performers were the first generation of hormone enhanced impersonators. April seems to have started hormones as soon as she was hired, as a matter of course: "Bambi took me along to Dr. Four once a week for expensive shots of the female hormone oestrogen... The most important effect is the promotion of breast development." And since big breasts were big news in the mid-fifties, Le Carrousel's performers were *très au courant*.

Men's bodies react differently to large doses of female hormones. April wrote that she never really develop a voluminous bust, "whereas Ruby, another of the female impersonators had overwhelming dugs, pendulous in character. She'd take off her brassière and wail, "My God, the floor's cold!" And if your body chemistry wouldn't bestow the breasts you wanted, there were other technologies, even if they hadn't been perfected. "Coccinelle's were quite a bagful too, the consistency of india-rubber because



▲ Everest

she'd had them pumped up with silicone." And "All his frocks were cut low enough to reveal nipple when he exhaled."

One beautiful impersonator, Capucine, was especially proud of her development. April reports that "a very famous millionaire" was keeping Capucine. So, "When (Maria) Callas gave a charity concert at l'Opéra... Capucine was in fact the only one who could afford to go. Once there he dropped a shoulder strap, out they fell, and he was all over the newspapers the next day. This kind of one-upmanship was the least attractive side of Carrousel life." Maybe, but it sold a lot of drinks.

The use of "he" in the last two quotes is very interesting. In her book April complains about pronouns, "is it 'he' or is it 'she?' Really, I should try to stick to 'he' until they've had their operations, but sometimes that simply doesn't sound right." Once your bodacious ta-tas are all over the pages of the Paris dailies, "he" does seem a bit inappropriate.

Many American clubs, like Finocchio's and the Jewel Box Revue, required their performers to arrive

Ms Bob
&
Carol Kleinmaier

and leave the theater dressed as men. M. Marcel's attitude seems to have been the opposite. Sure, Le Carousel's programs feature head shots of the performers out of drag, but many still appear so feminine that they don't really look much like men. And they're not supposed to be convincing as men. Just the opposite. April says that during the summer season, "Bambi and I stopped the traffic (literally) along the Côte d'Azur. Part of our job was to be seen in the best places so that folks would say, 'It can't be true – surely they're girls,' and come along to the show."

In Paris being a pretty *travesti* had other rewards. One time April took a London friend to "Le Bantu," a late-late nightclub behind the Lido where artistes unwound when their shows were over." She was astonished to receive a cut of any drinks the men with her ordered; "just like the strippers from Crazy House Saloon... The cut was a lot of money. A third of the bill... and, although it seemed to come close to prostitution, I was soon earning as much money there as at Le Carrousel." Some nights April and her English friend, Audrey, would get up and "treat them to a few wild rumbas — the management used to ply us with champagne to get us going."

Some stars could pass as glamorous women, but April is particularly hard on those who don't measure up, "most of the others were buffoons in the glare of day. They murdered their features with paint, wore dresses of staggering grossness, forced their boobs up and out." They engaged in "harlotry after hours" and/or had "a team of sugar-daddies in train." But she's careful not to paint all with the same brush, noting that, "Bambi lived quietly with his mother."

Lacking reviews or a "set list," facts about the shows themselves have to be pieced together. Sprinkled among the pulchritude there are performers, like Sylvain or Lucky Sarcell, who look more comedic than glamorous. April calls Coccinelle, "a great performer in the vaudeville tradition, ostentatiously vulgar. He liked to blow raspberries in the middle of his lilting rendition of 'Love's A Many Splendoured Thing.'"

Coccinelle wasn't the only performer with a ribald sense of humor. Everest "performed a brilliant strip with clouds of talcum powder puffing out from all the naughty places in his body-stocking." This Swiss giant never said a word on stage. April calls his act "sheer pantomime." He was 6'5" without his heels, stratospheric in the mid-1950's.

When she first started, Toni April's lack of training showed. "Opening night – was I on hot bricks. I danced that mambo like a leaping thyroid, so fast that the band were (*sic*) still playing it long after I'd fled the stage." But like a true trouser she hit the boards again, this time to sing the pop-hit *Venus*. "Again I dispatched it so quickly that the band were in the middle of the last verse when I was back in the wings." Eventually April settled into an impersonation of Eliza Doolittle from "My Fair Lady," Broadway's longest running show. It "involved fast, dramatic costume changes... and was a great success with the audience because it provided a change of pace from all the drag queens trying to be Marlene Dietrich taking her clothes off."

Judging from the photos there seem to have been a large number of dance acts. The French have a reputation for loving this aspect of the Terpsichorean muse, though, as April observes, many of the dancers must have performed *le striptease*. Canadian Les-Lee was one artiste who must have taken his cloths off. A Finocchio's program described him as an "exotic, interpretive dancer." From April's description Les-Lee sounds like quite the queen. April recalls that during the summer season, "I shared a big apartment with him and had hardly any sleep. There were troops of men through the flat all night long while I snuggled up to Frou-Frou, Les-Lee's dog, christened after the underskirt of a cancan dancer." Anyone with a dog named frou-frou has got to be one big queen.

Les may have "had all the old-fashion (*sic*) vices, but all of the old-fashion virtues too. He sent money home to his parents ev-

*continued
next page*

Les Lee ▼



ery month. He saved, had a budget for everything, made all his own dresses, sewed every sequin on himself." Les-Lee was "always enormously kind," almost motherly, to the young April. He bought April, and her English friend Joey, Christmas dinner their first season in Paris. Les found April her first Paris apartment, "next door to his hotel so he could keep an eye on me." And one morning, when Joey thought April had a suntan, Les said, "Take off your glasses...Oh shit, your eyeballs are bright yellow – you're ill." Funny how no one else had noticed.

Though April seems truly fond and grateful to Les, she says that, "his expression was often that disquieting mixture of toughness and melancholy which one saw often on the faces of the transvestites." Though this sounds like April's recurrent transsexual superiority, we don't doubt its truth. The question is whether this melancholy is limited to crossdressers and drag queens, or if it was common among members of any sexual minority during the 1950's.

There was at least one male impersonator at Le Carrousel, American Mickey Mercer. He also performed in this country with the touring Jewel Box Revue. Mickey started at Club Flamingo in Hollywood, if we can believe this biography from their program:

Montana's chief claim to fame is Hollywood's Mickey Mercer! Even its vast copper industry takes a back seat when the local gentry boast of Montana's latest "local girl to make good" in the world of top entertainment. Although this is her first try as a male impersonator, Mickey Mercer has succeeded far beyond her wildest expectations. She has a fine voice, a terrific delivery and is very popular with Flamingo Club audiences. Undoubtedly she would be just as entertaining in her natural garb as she is as a male impersonator, maybe more so, but she has chosen the difficult role of a male impersonator and is doing a fine job and all indications point to her long success.

Le Carrousel was the 1950's zenith of theatrical female impersonation and sexual ambiguity. Its reputation exceeded any show in the U.S. because it presented transgendered performers with a sexy, titillating edge for an elite, heterosexual audience. You could find male and female impersonators at the Jewel Box Revue, but the show was squeaky clean and certified safe for all ages.

There were shows full of innuendo in gay clubs, but they were underground and couldn't possibly attain the status and financial success of Le Carrousel. Perhaps only in Paris could a club recognize and exploit the inherent sensuality of glamour drag for an audience in tuxedos and gowns.

None of our sources give a date for the club's closing, but we'll bet that it was killed by the sexual revolution of the 60's, when it was no longer necessary to go to dark, smoky nightclubs to acknowledge and pay *hommage* to the libido.



▲ Lucy Crisler

▼ Esperanza





▲ Mickey Mercer (FtM)



▲ Capucine

We would like to thank GERARD KOSKOVICH for translating the French text in the le Carrousel program and bringing the le Crapouillot ad to our attention.

Ms. Bob is seeking three issues of "Female Mimics," #6 (Selbee/Health Knowledge, Aug. 1965), #1 (Eros Goldstripe, Winter, 1970) and vol. 5, #2 (Leo Ram, Summer, 1979), as well as two issues of "Female Mimics International" vol. 11, #1 & vol. 11, #4 (Leo Ram, 1980). She can be contacted c/o Lady Like or at <msbob@tgforum.com>.

Visit Ms Bob's Online Book Shoppe & Ephemera Emporium at <www.3dcom.com/msbob> where you can find many drag-related items for sale and trade.

CAROL KLEINMAIER is a founding member of Transgendered Nation. For over a decade she has been an activist for both gender and AIDS issues.

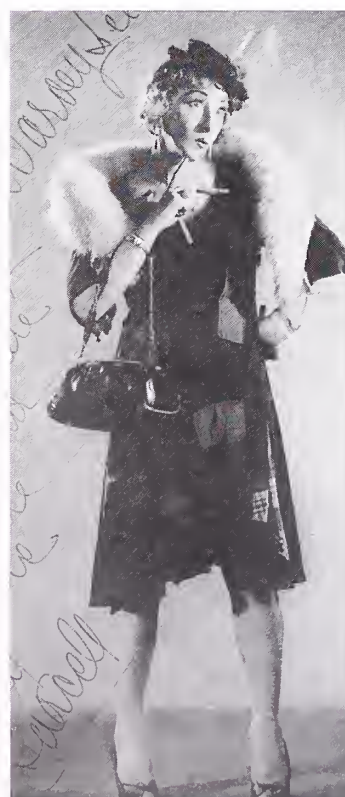
If there is any subject or person you'd be interested having covered in FLASH BACK, *Lady Like's* history column, please, let us know and we will try to oblige.

LL

▼ A Program Book from Le Carrousel. The FI is Bambi.



▼ Lucky Sarcell



Drag Trivia Quiz

by Madeline Rose

Our new film reviewer starts us off with a slick set of Trivia questions. How many answers do you know?

50 Drag Trivia Questions – Part 2

26. What British actor portrayed Dolly in a stage production of *Hello Dolly*?

27. Name the actor who appeared in drag in the following: *A Corny Concerto* 1943; *What's Cookin' Doc?* 1944; *Hare Ribbin'* 1944; *Hair Raising Hare* 1946; *Hare Splitter* 1948; *Rabbit Seasoning* 1952; *Hare Trimmed* 1953; *What's Opera, Doc?* 1957; *The Unmentionables* 1963; *Dr. Devil and Mr. Hare* 1964?

28. James Caan kills transvestite Christopher Morley in which cop flick?

29. Michael J. Fox played his own daughter in what film?

30. Who was the loveliest of the lovelies as the Green Venus?

31. Who was the largest drag performer on the New York stage during the Nineteenth Century?

32. What was Nathan Lane's drag name in *The Bird Cage*, 1996?

33. Julie Andrews played a woman pretending to be a man pretending to be a woman in which film?

34. Who performed in a one man off-Broadway show entitled *A Man And His Women*?

35. Josephine Baker gave this drag performer three taxicabs full of Dior & Balenciaga gowns. Who was he?

36. Why did Dawn Davenport (Divine) become a runaway in *Female Trouble*, 1973?

37. Andy Warhol used which drag

queen in his films *Dracula* 1964; *The Chelsea Girls* 1966; *Hefy/The Fourteen-Year-Old Girl/Hedy The Shoplifter* 1966; and *More Milk Yvette/Lana Turner* 1966?

38. True or False: E. T. the little extra-terrestrial was only a puppet?

39. True or False: John Cleese played the mother of Brian (Graham Chapman) in *Monty Python's Life Of Brian*, 1979.

40. Why did Queen Victoria utter those immortal words "We are not amused"?

41. Who imitated Carmen Miranda in *Winged Victory*, 1944?

42. What Shakespearean male character have the following actresses portrayed: Sarah Sutton, Kitty Clive, Mrs. Inchbald, Mrs. Bartley, Mrs. Battersby, Eliza Marian Treway, Mrs. Powell, Ellen Bateman, Fanny Wallack, Charlotte Cushman, Charlotte Crampton, Charlotte Barnes, Clara Fisher, Alice Marriott, Julia Glover, Marie Seebach, Winette Montague, Mrs. Minot, Adela Belgrade, Louise Pomeroy, Anne Dickinson, Nellie Holbrook, Sarah Bernhardt, Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer, Clara Howard, Esme Beringer, Eva La Gallienne, Judith Anderson, and Asta Nielsen?

43. China issued a set of eight stamps in 1962 to honor which drag star of the Chinese opera?

44. Ricardo Montalban performed as an "onnagata" (a female impersonator) in which Oscar winning film?

45. Ed Wood, that lover of angora, played a transvestite in which of his

movies? Bonus: Who portrayed Ed Wood on film?

46. Who was "The Creole Fashion Plate"?

47. Who was "The Last of the Red Hot Papas"?

48. What male star dressed as a bride for a 1911 musical?

49. Who appeared in two Bette Davis movies in drag, recorded naughty records, headlined at Finocchio's, owned his own nightclub, performed on the stage with Mae West and was convicted of murder.

50. What actress won an Oscar for her role as a man in *The Year Of Living Dangerously*, 1983?

The Answers:

26. Female impersonator Danny LA Rue portrayed the matchmaking Dolly Levi in a British production of *Hello Dolly!* La Rue performed live in *Danny La Rue At The Palace* 1970, *The Danny La Rue Show* 1973 and appeared in drag in the movie *Our Miss Fred* 1972 and in an episode of Rowan Atkinson's *Mr. Bean*.

27. Bugs Bunny was the prolific animated rabbit who appeared in these cartoon gems.

28. *Freebie and The Bean*, 1974.

29. *Back To The Future II* 1989.

30. Bothwell Browne was the loveliest of the lovelies as the Green Venus surrounded by a chorus of beautiful girls. Browne was the only true rival of

Julian Eltinge during the height of Vaudeville. He appeared in the musical comedy *Miss Jack* 1911 which played before Eltinge's *The Fascinating Widow*. The musical was short-lived and made way for Eltinge's more successful production. Browne was more beautiful as a woman than Eltinge, but lacked Eltinge's versatility and singing ability. Browne was a cross-dressing spy in the silent film *A Yankee Doodle In Berlin* 1919.

31. George K. Fortesque, all 300 pounds and six feet of him, was the largest drag performer on Broadway. He appeared in a production of *Black Eyed Susan* in the 1860s and later played the role of Clorinda in *Cinderella*. In 1885, he took over the role of Catherine from Louis Mestayer in *Evangeline*. This success helped launch Fortesque's performance in the title role of *Well Fed-Dora* which played for twenty years. He had other successes in *Rose Michel*, *The Babes In The Wood*, and *The Belle of New York* which ran for two years and toured London and the world. He died in 1914.

32. Starina was Nathan Lane's drag name in *The Bird Cage*. The film was based on the French film *La Cage Aux Folles* 1979. The drag star in that film was Albin (Michel Serrault) with the drag name of Zaza Napoli. The French film gave birth to two sequels: *La Cage Aux Folles II* 1981 and *La Cage Aux Folles III: The Wedding* 1986. The French films inspired a very successful Broadway musical in 1983 which toured extensively.

33. *Vistor/Victoria* 1982 found Julie Andrews, coached by Toddy (Robert Preston), as the woman pretending to be a Polish count female impersonator. The film was inspired by *Some*

Like It Hot 1959 but was based on the German film *Viktor Und Viktoria* 1933 with Renate Muller as the female female impersonator. Jessie Matthews performed the role in the British version *First A Girl* 1935.

34. Craig Russell was the female impersonator star of *A MAN And His Women* 1977. Russell's live impersonations of Mae West, Peggy Lee, Carol Channing and other notable women won him fame as a female impersonator. He was a drag-performing hairdresser in *Outrageous* 1977 and continued the role in the sequel *Too Outrageous!* 1987. Russell died in 1990 at the age of forty. His widow is Lori Jenkins, a fan he married in 1982.

35. Lynne Carter was the recipient of the magnificent gowns by Baker. Pearl Bailey gave Carter his big break in 1946 and from then on he gave impersonations of women. He imitated such female stars as Eartha Kitt, Hermione Gingold, Marlene Dietrich, Phyllis Diller and even Bailey herself. His appearances in the stage productions *Vicvkie!* 1942, *Hear That Trumpet* 1946 and *Fun City* 1968 were well received. Carter headlined at the Jewel Box Revue and was one of the few female impersonators to perform at Carnegie Hall, which was in 1971. He appeared in the film *The Man From O.R.G.Y.* 1970. Carter died in 1985.

36. Because she didn't receive cha-cha heel shoes for Christmas.

37. Mario Montez was one of the many queens chosen for Warhol's films. Montez appeared in numerous underground films during the 1960s. Among his other films were *Flaming Creature* 1962, *Normal Love*, *Chum-Lum*, *Brothel*, *Waiting For Sugar*, *Lupe*, *Dirt*, *The Queen* 1965 and *Candy* 1968.

38. False. Besides the puppet, E.T. was portrayed by three small actors and a speech teacher for the 1982 film. Tamara de Treaux, a singer with the Medflies and 2 feet 7 inches tall, played the little alien in some scenes. She was not the only little person to portray E. T. There was Pat Bilson who was 3 inches taller than de Treaux. Also legless Matthew de Merritt who performed as E. T. in the drunk sequence. E. T.'s voice was supplied by female speech teacher Pat Welsh.

39. False. Terry Jones was Brian's mother.

40. Queen Victoria made the statement when she was shocked at seeing a man imitate her. Two men who later imitated Her Royal Majesty was ballet dancer Frederick Ashton and Bert Lahr. Lahr imitated Queen Victoria in *Two On The Aisle* 1951.

41. Sascha Brastoff imitated Carmen Miranda by wearing an Army blanket, insignia, utensils and ammunition in both the stage play and film of *Winged Victory* 1944. Miranda was so impressed by Brastoff that he became her costume designer.

42. Hamlet. Actresses have also played the following Shakespearean male characters: Richard III, Iago, Falstaff, Hotspur, Shylock and Romeo.

43. Mei Lan-fang was honored with the stamp issues. He was a tan actor in the Chinese Opera. A tan was a woman's role in a play. Mei Lan-fang toured the world, including the United States and Japan, with his remarkable female impersonations. He enacted the five tan roles which include the married woman, the ingenue, the maiden, the hand-maiden, and the militant woman. Fortunately, many of

continued page 40



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How NOT to Come Out of the Closet



By Stephanie Reiser

Telling people close to you about your transgendered side may or may not be something you are contemplating, depending on how much a part of your life being dual-gendered plays. As for myself, I have gotten to the point in my life where I'm not ashamed of being transgendered. I am perfectly willing to talk to any one about it if they ask. Although I understand that not all of us can be in that frame of mind, most of us can probably think of someone they would like to share this secret with. I am single, my ex-spouse knows about my other side and accepts it. We are still good friends and the transgender issue didn't play a big part in our split. People at work know about me, even to the point of occasionally calling me "Stephanie." I have told my parents and my sister. My sister is accepting but my mother claims that people like me "do this" to attract men because we are gay. I have another

close male friend who I want to tell at sometime, but have not yet.

Now let me talk about the neighbor across the street. When I moved into my house about five years ago, I moved to a little town in upstate New York where I didn't know anyone. I thought this would be great because, I concluded, it would make it easier to come and go without being noticed much. Well, as time went by, the neighbor across the street and I became friends to the point where I mow his lawn and he has fixed my car several times. I also knew in my heart that I would not be a prisoner in my own home. You see, I do my grocery shopping, Walmart-type shopping, I travel and do many other things as my female self. I didn't want to hide from my neighbor or anyone else. I knew that eventually I would need to confront him. It was something I felt I could do but I wanted the timing to be right. As a result, it has been a couple of years now and the timing hasn't been right yet. I am such a procrastinator.

One Friday afternoon recently, I was getting ready to meet a friend I had met through Transgender Forum. I had finished taking my bath and my makeup was complete. I had just started to dress so I was only wearing my bra and panties. The radio was on and my telephone answering machine was off.

I decided to go down to the kitchen to get a drink of water. I very rarely get visitors that just pop in on me so I am accustomed to walking about the house in all phases of dress and undress. Well, you guessed it. Standing there at my back door was my neighbor with his cordless phone in his hand. All I could think of were the words "Oh

shit!," as I quickly stepped back out of view. He turned and walked away just as embarrassed.

I wasn't going to call off my trip to the restaurant to meet my friend, just because of this incident. So I started to go back upstairs when the phone rang. It was a female friend my mine (who knows I am transgendered). She was calling me because of a crisis in which her father had been rushed to the hospital. She needed a baby sitter on short notice. She had been trying to phone for a while, so she called the neighbor to have him come over to get me.

I explained to her I had plans and had just put on my makeup, but if she could not find anyone else I would change my plans. She understood and tried to find someone else but couldn't and called back. So I said "no problem" and asked her to give me fifteen minutes to wash up. When she got here I told her what had happened with the neighbor at the back door and we both had a good laugh.

The more I thought about why I was embarrassed, the more I realized that it was because he saw me in my underwear. I come and go all the time and he must have seen me in a dress at some time or another. That was it. I didn't feel quite so embarrassed now.

A couple of days later I spoke to my female friend on the phone, and we talked about the incident again. She said she spoke to our mutual friend across the street and he said he has known about my crossdressing and it didn't bother him. She had also told him how I felt embarrassed.

I had been thinking since that day that now I really need to have a talk

continued next page

50 Drag Trivia Questions cont'd...

his performances were put to film, although a few of the films are now lost. Some of his films include *Spring Fragrance Disturbs The Study* 1920, *heavenly Maiden Stress Blossoms* 1920, *The Peony Pavillion*, *Five SHort Scenes of Peking Opera*, and *Happiness Neither In Life Nor In Death* made in the late 1940s. Lan-fang was born in 1894 and died in 1961.

44. *Sayonara* 1957 showed Montalban as an onnagata, an actor in Japan's Kabuki theatre who plays a woman. The onnagata specializes in women's roles and is trained from an early age for such parts. It was traditional for such actors to dress as a woman off-stage as well as on. Many onnagatas became matinee idols, even in modern Japan.

45. Wood starred in his own film *Glen Or Glenda?* 1953 under the name of Daniel Davis. Johnny Depp portrayed Wood in *Ed Wood* 1994.

46. Karyl Norman was the Creole Fashion Plate. He was a singer and female

impersonator in Vaudeville. He was often on the same bill as Milton Berle. Norman performed several times in the 1920s at the Palace Theatre in New York. Among his songs he sung as a woman were *I Wonder Who*, *Immigration Rose*, *nobody Loves Me*, *Beside A Babbling Brook* and *Don't Leave Me Mammy*. Norman died in 1950.

47. Francis Renault was known as the Last of the Red Hot Pappas. Renault's real name was Anthony Auriemme but changed it on the advice of the theatrical producers the Shubert Brothers. He became a notable star in 1916 and continued in Vaudeville. He appeared in the Shubert's *Passing Show of 1922*. He featured numerous songs in his career, among them were *Rackety Coo*, *The Sunshine Of Your SMile*, *In The Garden Of Allah*, *My Hero*, *Ah Sweet Mystery Of Life*, *The Dress My Mother Wore*, and *That Certain Party*. In the 1950s, Renault appeared at Carnegie Hall in concert. He died in 1955 at age sixty-two.

48. Julian Eltinge starred as a blushing bride in *The Fascinating Widow* 1911,

his greatest success. A silent movie version appeared in 1925, sadly it is among the numerous lost silent films.

49. Rae Bourbon appeared in the silent films *Bella Donna* 1923 (as a flower vendress), *The Four Horseman Of The Apocalypse* 1921, *The Sheik* 1921, *Blood And Sand* 1922 and *Son Of The Sheik* 1926. For a time, he was in Vaudeville. He appeared in two Bette Davis films: *Now Voyager* 1942 and *All About Eve* 1950, as a female extra. He owned a nightclub call "Bourbon's" near Hollywood. His naughty 78s are highly sought after by collectors. He performed with Mae West in her play *Catherine Was Great* from 1945 to 1947, and took the role of Bowery Rose in West's other play *Diamond Lil*. In 1968, Bourbon was arrested and later convicted of murdering a pet shop owner who had sold Bourbon's numerous pets. Bourbon died in a Texas prison hospital in 1971.

50. Standing on a stool to accept her Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her performance as a man in a movie was diminutive Linda Hunt.



How NOT To Come Out...

with him. Shortly after that I pulled my car into my driveway (dressed as a boy), and I noticed my neighbor coming across the street to speak to me about something. He said he hoped what had happened the other day would not have an effect on our friendship. I assured him that it wouldn't and that was the end of that. Oh, except that I was home from work for a few days working in my studio, when I noticed a message on my telephone answering machine. It was him, inquiring if I was alright, that he hadn't seen me in a few days. Hmmm, inter-

esting. Completely out of character for him, but nice of him to inquire.

As I think back to that incident I believe I can feel okay about the event. I also think that for many of us the stumbling block is in our heads, and we are the ones who make the big deal about this whole issue. Sometimes we just assume the world will come to an end if someone finds out we are transgendered. We owe it to our loved ones to give them a chance to accept us. Even people in general are much more accepting of us. I mentioned earlier in this article that I go out in public often. I would say that I pass fairly reasonably 90% to 95% of the time as a guess. But

recently I was in Walmart and I could just barely hear a little boy ask his mom if "...that's really a man." I couldn't hear his mother's reply. But no one else that day even took a second look at me. Which makes me conclude that some people just don't care if you are dressed properly for the occasion.

Think about it, what is really wrong with expressing dress and mannerisms of the opposite gender? I really believe that most people are not offended. We should always have great self-esteem and feel the best about ourselves. Just try not to get caught in your underwear unexpectedly.



Mirror Mirror



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On My Mind...



Back in issue #40 I told you about a group of transgendered business people who were setting up a new granting foundation for the community. At the time, I did not have the details, but I do now.

The Transgender

Fund is a national, independent foundation created to provide financial support for qualified initiatives designed to advance the interests of the transgender community. The Fund emphasizes collaborative educational, research, public awareness and legal initiatives that foster the well-being of transgender individuals, their families, partners, friends, and the population at large.

Okay, that's the soapbox version. What are we really talking about here? Well, for the first time in our community's history, you get to have a say where your donation goes and how it gets spent. The Fund has spelled out several initiatives to which you can make a donation as small as \$5 or as large as you like. At this writing, there are three initiatives (by the time you read this, there could be more). The three are:

- (1) The Fourth Congress on Sex & Gender
- (2) NTAC's Operation Initiation
- (3) Christie Littleton Legal Support

Let's look at these briefly. The **Fourth Congress on Sex & Gender** is the only event in our community that brings together the professionals who study transgender behavior and transgendered people themselves. The resulting dialog is invaluable for both communities. The Fourth Congress was supposed to be held in May but because of low registrations (that's another story in itself) the Congress is postponed until October 2000. The Fund wants to see the Congress go forward regardless, therefore, the Fund has pledged \$5000 to the Congress committee, provided they can raise \$5000 in matching funds. So far, they've matched \$4000.

The **National Transgender Advocacy Coalition**

(NTAC) is our community's newest political organization. Their **Operation Initiation** is a human rights project collectively supported by NTAC, Kentucky's BGB transgender organization, and others. The objective is to sponsor an education day for influential Washington lobbyists. The focus of the meeting will be to counsel these lobbyists on the need for the passage of a proposed gender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that includes protections for all gender variant people. The passage of such an act will dramatically benefit every member of the transgender community who is concerned about freedom of gender expression. The Fund believes that \$5000 will get this NTAC project off the ground.

Finally, there's the Christie Littleton Legal Support Fund which is essential to overturn the State of Texas lower court's rulings (9 S.W.3d 228) against Christie Littleton, a post-op, male-to-female, transsexual woman. Littleton's wrongful death suit for medical malpractice against the physician who treated her deceased husband was thrown out on the grounds that Ms. Littleton is really a male and same-sex marriages are illegal in Texas. Maryland family law attorney **Alyson Meiselman** and Texas transgender legal advocate **Phyllis Randolph Frye** (both very out transgender attorneys) plus a national team of volunteer LGBT attorneys and advocates have teamed to challenge these court decisions, all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary. These people have been working mostly "pro bono," i.e., they have had out of pocket expenses covered but are working at a very reduced fee (less than 15%) paid by the Texas Human Rights Foundation. The Fund believes both Meiselman and Frye deserve additional financial support in order to keep their attention focused on the case. The Fund would like to raise \$20,000 for Littleton Legal Support.

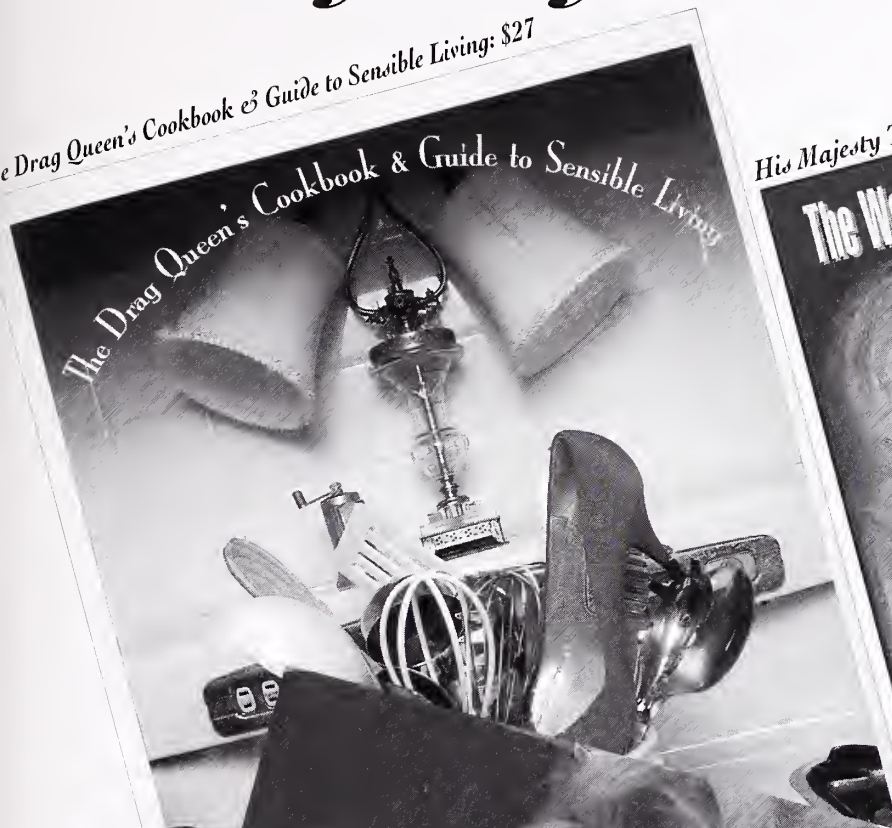
How can you help? By making a donation to one or more of these initiatives. Go to the TGFund website <www.tgfund.org>, or call 610-251-9111, or write TGFund, PO Box 2132, SE PA 19399.

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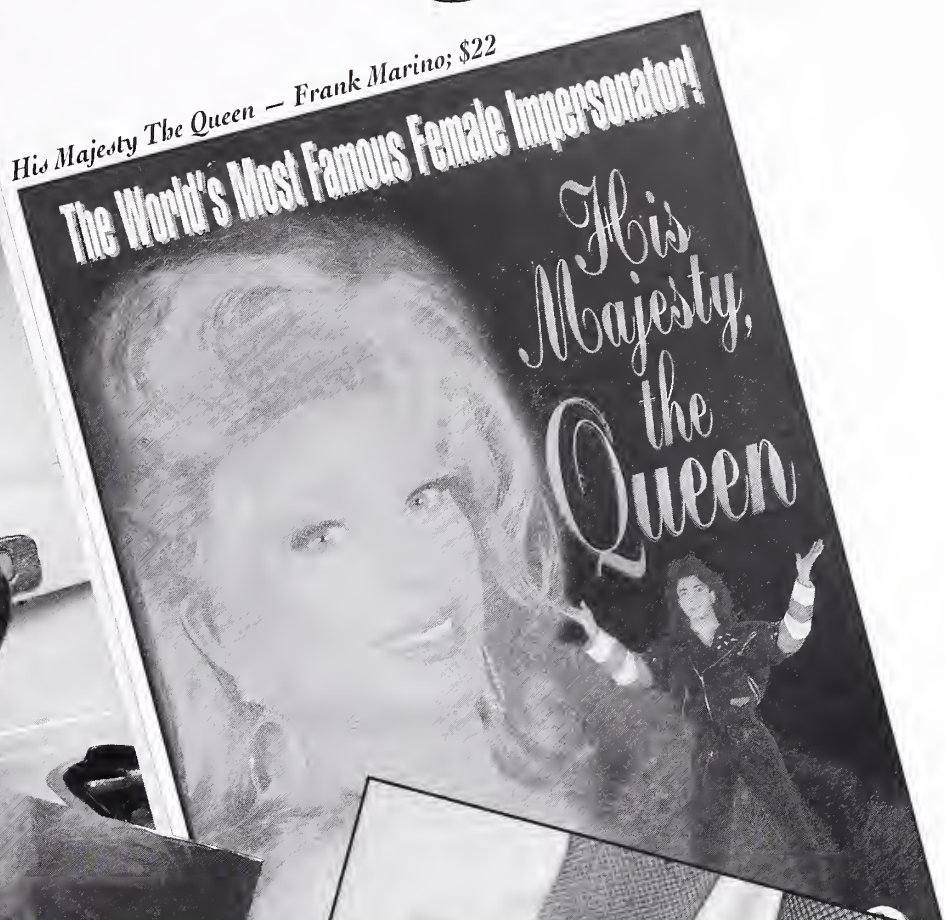
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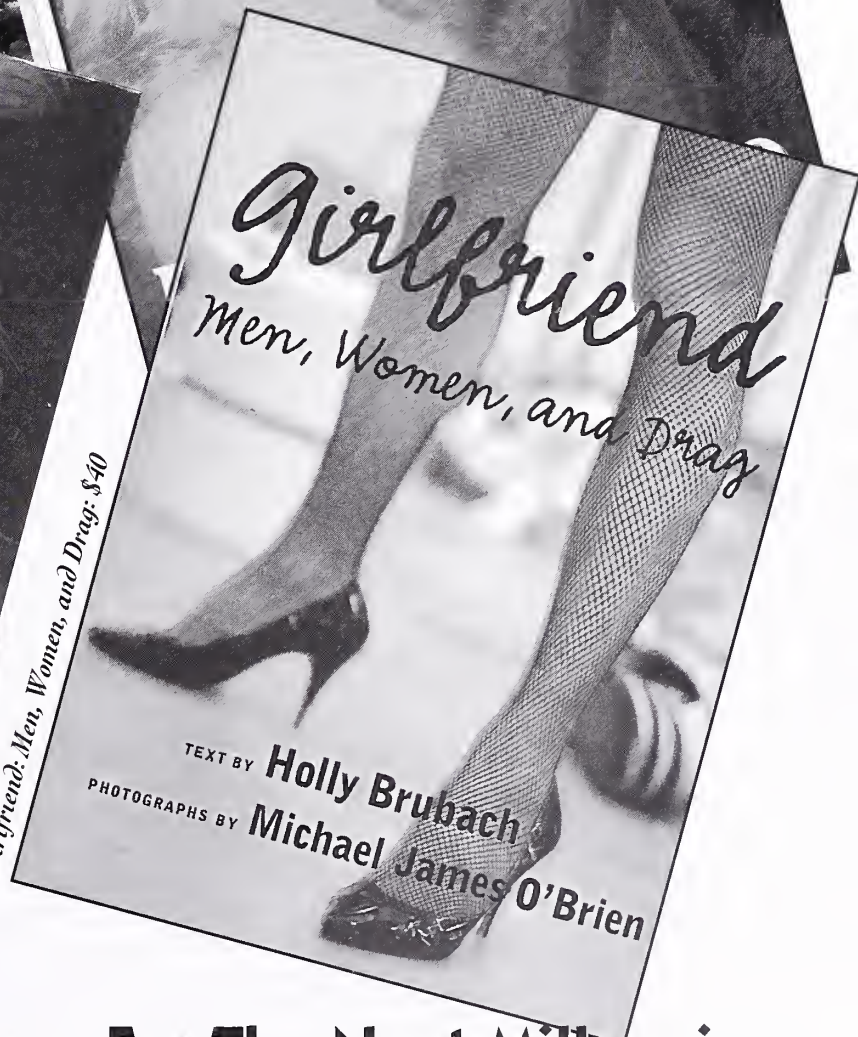
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